68 PAGES
NO ADS FROM COVER TO COVER!

FLASH ★ WONDER WOMAN ★ DEADMAN ★ AQUAMAN
★ THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA ★
5 ALL-NEW SUPER-STAR FEATURES
JUNE, 1979
$1.00
NO. 463

ADVENTURE COMICS

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TO LIVE AGAIN DEADMAN MUST HAVE HIS *OWN BODY!* BUT CAN HE TRUST HIS ENEMY'S DAUGHTER TO HELP MATERIALIZE IT?

EVEN *AQUALAD* HAS TURNED AGAINST *AQUAMAN!*

WHY MUST *MERA* CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM?

THE *URTUM!* CREATURE FEEDS ON *FLASH'S* BODY ENERGY. IF HE DOESN'T DESTROY IT--*HE DIES!*

HOW LONG CAN *WONDER WOMAN* HOLD OUT AGAINST THE DEADLY SWARMS OF KILLER BEES?

THE *JSA* BATTLES THE *DEMON HORDES* OF SORCERER *FREDRIC VAUX!*

ANOTHER EXPLOSIVE 17-PAGE EPIC!!

C-957

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DATELINE: ADVENTURE COMICS

Featuring The FLASH

THE JUSTICE SOCIETY

UNGODLY HOUR, UNHOLY NIGHT...

"NIGHT OF THE SOUL STEALER"

Pg 27

AQUAMAN

THE *END*... OR A *BEGINNING*? "CLIMAX"

Pg 44

DEADMAN

FREE OF *DEATH* AT LAST?

"MIND OVER MURDER"

Pg 15

WONDER WOMAN

Pg 56

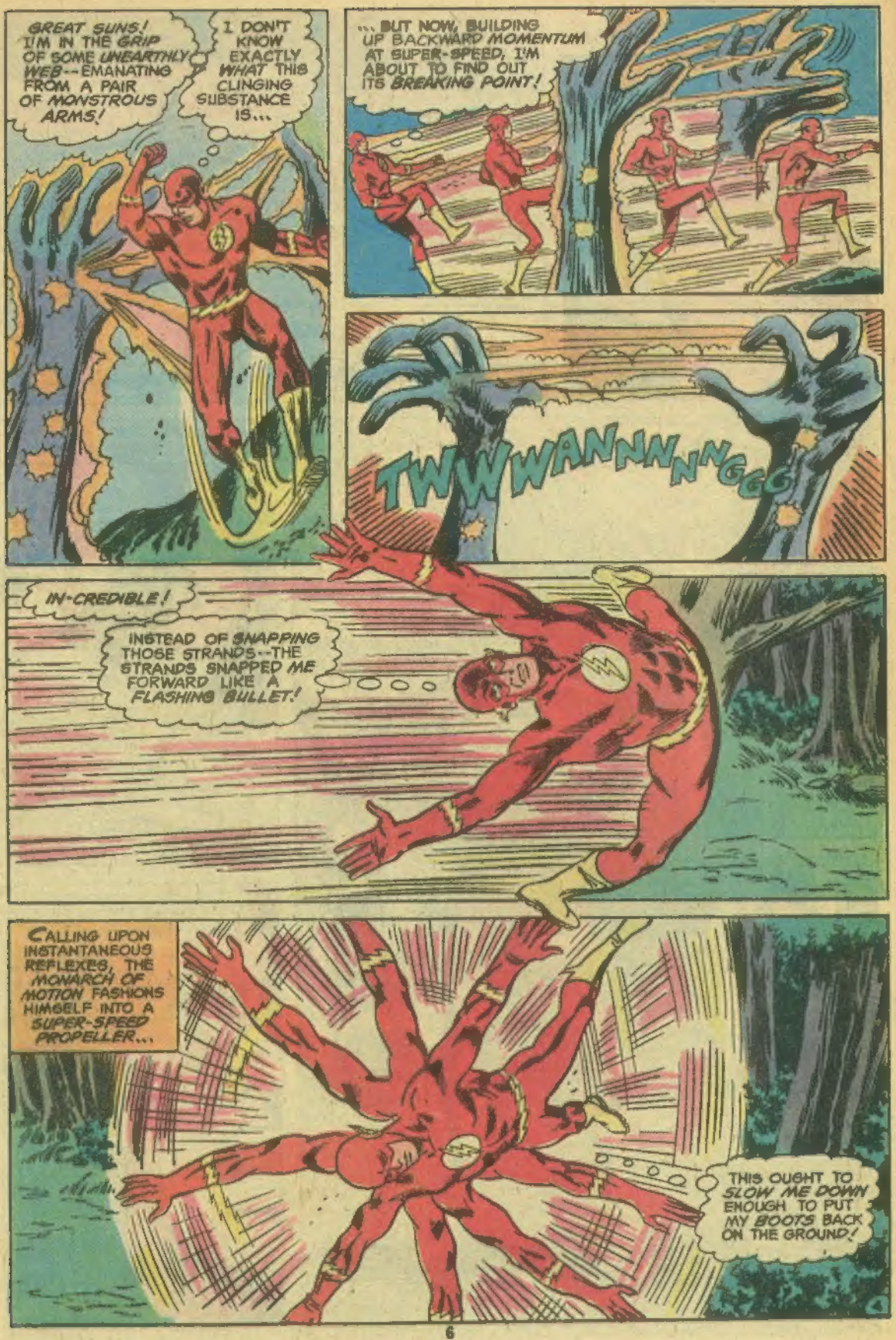
WHOSE MIND CONTROLS-- "THE INSANITY SWARM"?

A BOLT OF LIGHTNING SHATTERED A CABINET OF CHEMICALS--CHANGING POLICE SCIENTIST BARRY ALLEN INTO THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE --
The FLASH
EACH TIME THIS MONSTROUS CREATURE STRIKES DOWN ONE OF MY SUPER-SPEED AFTER-IMAGES--
--IT COMES CLOSER AND CLOSER TO DESTROYING ME-- THE ONE AND ONLY ORIGINAL!
URTUMI-- SOME THOUGHT HIM TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A MYTH SPAWNED FROM AN ANCIENT INDIAN LEGEND! BUT IT IS SAID THAT MYTHS ARE OFTEN ROOTED IN SOME BASIS OF TRUTH-- AS THE FLASH DISCOVERS FOR HIMSELF WHEN HE REALIZES NOT EVEN THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE CAN ESCAPE...
URTUMI
THE IMAGE EATER

WRITER - CARY BATES
PENCILLER - DON HECK
INKER - JOE GIELLA
LETTERER - BEN ODA
COLORIST - GENE D'ANGELO
EDITOR - ROSS ANDRU

SOUTH SOUTHWEST OF CENTRAL CITY--AND A DESERTED LANDSCAPE THAT STRETCHES ALL THE WAY TO THE HORIZON...
...DESERTED UNTIL A HUMAN STREAK OF SCARLET RACES ACROSS THE TERRAIN FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF THOUGHT...
IT WAS GREAT SPENDING A DAY WITH MY FELLOW-FLASH JAY GARRICK IN KEYSTONE CITY! WISH I HAD THE TIME TO VISIT EARTH-TWO MORE OFTEN!
AS REGULAR READERS KNOW, EARTH-TWO IS A PARALLEL EARTH CO-EXISTING WITH OUR FLASH'S WORLD--BUT ON A DIFFERENT DIMENSIONAL PLANE!
IT IS ON THIS OTHER EARTH THAT KEYSTONE CITY CO-EXISTS WITH CENTRAL CITY!
THAT'S ODD... I JUST HAD THE STRANGEST FEELING A FEW HUNDREDTHS OF A SECOND AGO...
...AS IF... AS IF I WAS ACTUALLY LEAVING PART OF MYSELF BEHIND!
WHEW! I GUESS SOMETIMES SUPER-SPEED CAN EVEN PLAY TRICKS ON ME!
2

BUT WHEN THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER GLANCES BACK OVER HIS SHOULDER...
GOOD GRIEF! "TRICK" DOESN'T BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THIS--
--ONE OF MY OWN AFTER-IMAGES ...SOMEHOW LINGERING BEHIND ...OVER THE VERY SPOT I EXPERIENCED THAT STRANGE SENSATION A MOMENT AGO!
GONE... BEFORE I COULD GET A BETTER LOOK AT MY PHANTOM DOUBLE!
...OR JUST SOME SORT OF OPTICAL ILLUSION?
EITHER WAY--I DON'T HAVE TIME TO STAND HERE AND MENTALLY DEBATE THE QUESTION...
WAS IT REALLY ME...
NOT WITH IRIS WAITING AT HOME WONDERING WHERE HER HUSBAND IS!
THE FASTEST FEET ALIVE BLUR INTO MOTION--AND YET...
?!? MY LEGS ARE MOVING AT SUPER-SPEED -- BUT I'M GOING NOWHERE!
A NUMBING COLDNESS... POURING THROUGH EVERY FIBER OF MY BODY!
3


GREAT SUNS! I'M IN THE GRIP OF SOME UNEARTHLY WEB--EMANATING FROM A PAIR OF MONSTROUS ARMS!
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THIS CLINGING SUBSTANCE IS...
... BUT NOW, BUILDING UP BACKWARD MOMENTUM AT SUPER-SPEED, I'M ABOUT TO FIND OUT ITS BREAKING POINT!
TWWWANNNNNGGG
IN-CREDIBLE!
INSTEAD OF SNAPPING THOSE STRANDS--THE STRANDS SNAPPED ME FORWARD LIKE A FLASHING BULLET!
CALLING UPON INSTANTANEOUS REFLEXES, THE MONARCH OF MOTION FASHIONS HIMSELF INTO A SUPER-SPEED PROPELLER...
THIS OUGHT TO SLOW ME DOWN ENOUGH TO PUT MY BOOTS BACK ON THE GROUND!

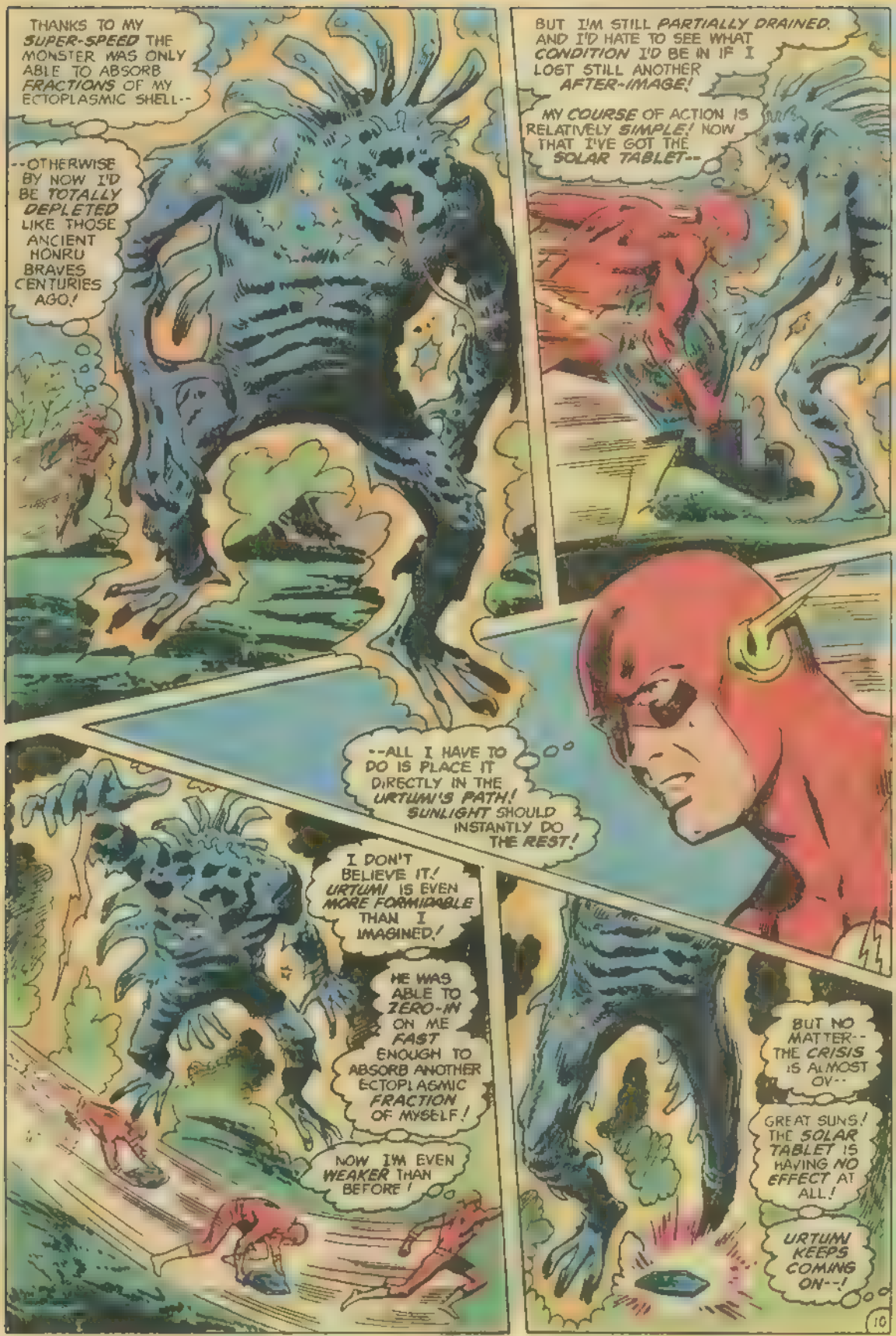
IF THE ARMS ALONE CAN CAUSE THIS MUCH TROUBLE-- I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT THE TOTAL PACKAGE!
MAYBE I CAN DRIVE THIS MONSTER BACK INTO THE GROUND BEFORE THE REST OF HIM EMERGES!
OOOPS! IT WAS A NICE IDEA--
--WHILE IT LASTED! THIS BRUTE MAKES MY TOP-TEN NIGHTMARES LOOK LIKE SATURDAY MORNING CARTOON SHOWS!
UH-OH! THOSE BOLTS DISINTEGRATING THE GROUND BENEATH MY FEET!
BUT I HAVE A FEELING THE WORST IS YET TO COME!
IN THE NEXT SHATTERING INSTANT, A SCARLET FORM IS LITERALLY WRENCHED APART-- BY FORCES BOTH UNSEEN AND UNIMAGINABLE...
5

WHILE ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY...
WHEW! MANAGED TO VIBRATE MY WAY INTO THE GROUND FOR SAFETY AT THE LAST POSSIBLE INSTANT!
THAT'S THE SECOND AFTER-IMAGE I'VE LOST TODAY...
...AND THAT STRANGE SENSATION IS A LOT... EASIER... TO PIN DOWN THIS TIME!
I'M FEELING DEPLETED... DANGEROUSLY WEAK...
KEEP OUT
EXCAVATION AREA
CENTRAL CITY MUSEUM
DR. P. STEIGER
DON'T THINK I CAN AFFORD A THIRD RUN-IN WITH THE CREATURE... NOT UNTIL I REGAIN ENOUGH ENERGY TO BE BACK AT MY FIGHTING STRENGTH!
IF ONLY I HAD SOME SIGN... SOME CLUE THAT WOULD HELP ME FIGURE OUT WHAT I'M UP AGAINST...
AND AS IF IN ANSWER TO A SILENT PLEA, FLASH SPIES HIS "SIGN"...
SO--THIS IS THE SITE OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG! IT MAY MEAN NOTHING AT ALL... OR EVERYTHING!
EITHER WAY, I NEED TO KNOW!
SINCE WE'RE IN A DESERTED SECTION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE, THERE'S NO IMMEDIATE DANGER OF THE MYSTERY MONSTER HARMING ANYONE ELSE!
AND SINCE MY SUPER-FAST MOLECULES NEED SOME MOMENTS TO RE-CHARGE...
6

... HOPEFULLY THEY'LL TURN OUT TO BE MOMENTS WELL-SPENT--
--AT THE CENTRAL CITY MUSEUM!
IT'S THE MOST INCREDIBLE FIND I'VE EVER MADE! WE FOUND IT JUST TWO INCHES BELOW THE SURFACE IN OUR EXCAVATION AREA!
WITHOUT QUESTION, IT WAS LEFT BY THE ANCIENT HONRU TRIBES THAT INHABITED THESE FLATLANDS MANY CENTURIES AGO!
I MUST SAY I'M SURPRISED BY YOUR ENTHUSIASTIC INTEREST! I DIDN'T KNOW ARCHAEOLOGY WAS ONE OF THE FLASH'S HOBBIES!
DR. STEIGER--THOSE MARKINGS ETCHED INTO THE TABLET--?
--WOULD THEY BE HONRU PICTURE SYMBOLS?!
PRECISELY! WE'VE ALREADY MANAGED TO DECIPHER THEM--AND THEY RELATE A MOST FASCINATING HONRU LEGEND! I COULD TELL IT TO YOU IF YOU LIKE!
PLEASE DO, DOCTOR!
"THE HONRUS WERE ONCE THE MOST POWERFUL TRIBE IN NORTH AMERICAN MIDWEST--IN AN ERA LONG BEFORE COLUMBUS LANDED AT PLYMOUTH ROCK!"
"THE HONRU BRAVES WERE KNOWN AS THE FIERCEST WARRIORS ON THE PLAIN--FEARED AND RESPECTED BY THE OTHER TRIBES!"
"ONCE EVERY YEAR, THESE MIGHTY BRAVES WOULD RIDE OUT OF THE CAMP TO PERFORM A SECRET RITUAL THEY NEVER DARED DISCUSS WITH THEIR SQUAWS.."
"FOR IT WAS TIME TO APPEASE URTUMI--THE VILEST, MOST EVIL MANITOU SPIRIT IN ALL THE HEAVENS!"
7

'URTUMI -- THE SCAVENGER OF SPIRITS! THE HONRU BRAVES WOULD STAND BEFORE THIS HIDEOUS, UNSIGHTLY MONSTER.'
"URTUMI WOULD QUITE LITERALLY FEED OFF THEM..."
"...DRAWING EACH WARRIOR'S SPIRIT INTO ITS VILE BEING -- THUS APPEASING THE URTUMI FOR YET ANOTHER YEAR."
"...WHILE THE HONRU BRAVES RETURNED TO THEIR SQUAWS DRAINED AND WEAKENED, JUST SHADOWS OF THEIR FORMER SELVES!"
"IT WOULD TAKE THEM THE ENTIRE WINTER TO BE NURTURED BACK TO THEIR FIGHTING STRENGTH...ONLY TO FACE ANOTHER FEEDING THE FOLLOWING SPRING!"
"UNTIL ONE SPRING -- WHEN THE BRAVES ARRIVED TO SEE AN EVEN MORE POWERFUL MANITOU HAD COME DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS TO VANQUISH THE HIDEOUS MONSTER..."
"...DRIVING IT BACK INTO THE NETHER REGIONS FROM WHENCE IT CAME!"
"AND AS A FINAL GUARANTEE THAT THE HONRUS WOULD FINALLY BE FOREVER RID OF THIS SCOURGE..."
"THE GOOD MANITOU PLANTED THIS TABLET INTO THE GROUND OVER THE URTUMI -- TELLING THE HONRU BRAVES THAT THEIR MONSTER WOULD NEVER RISE TO PLAGUE THEM AGAIN."
"AS LONG AS THE SUN SHONE DOWN UPON THE MAGIC TABLET, AND SO THE LEGEND WENT."
8

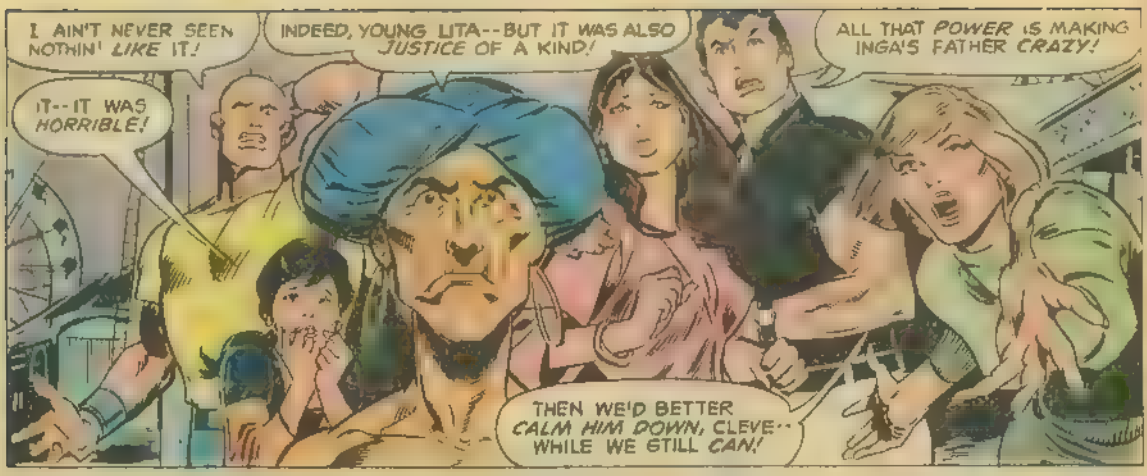
ALTHOUGH A MONSTER LIKE URTUMI IS AN OBVIOUS MYTH--SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES POSTULATE THE "GOOD MANITOU" THE HONRUS SAW MAY HAVE INDEED BEEN AN AUTHENTIC UFO--AN ALIEN SPACECRAFT!
OF COURSE! EVERYTHING FITS! IT ALL MAKES SENSE...
..TOO MUCH SENSE! UNLESS I'M VERY MISTAKEN--THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF CENTRAL CITY IS IN DEADLY DANGER!
FLASH!! WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?
URTUMI IS OBVIOUSLY VERY REAL! APPARENTLY IT FEEDS ON ECTOPLASMIC ENERGY* AS IT SIPHONS OFF FROM THE HUMAN BODY!
NO WONDER THOSE HONRU BRAVES WERE SO DEPLETED EVERY WINTER!
* ECTOPLASM--AN INVISIBLE FORM OF LIVING MATTER WITHIN ALL OF US, ABLE TO SOMETIMES MANIFEST ITSELF AS "GHOSTLY IMAGES"--COMPOSED ENTIRELY FROM OUR OWN CELLS!
IF ENOUGH ECTOPLASM IS DRAWN OFF - EVERY CELL IN THE BODY CAN SUFFER!
THOSE SO-CALLED AFTER-IMAGES I LOST MUST'VE BEEN ECTOPLASMIC SHELLS OF MYSELF!
THEY GAVE THE DORMANT URTUMI ENOUGH ENERGY TO RISE AGAIN!
AND THANKS TO DR. STEIGER, THERE WAS NO TABLET SAFEGUARD IN THE GROUND TO HOLD HIM BACK!
MY GUESS IS THAT THE TABLET IS ACTUALLY SOME SORT OF ADVANCED ALIEN DEVICE THAT ABSORBS SOLAR RAYS--
AND CONVERTS THEM INTO AN UNKNOWN FORM OF ENERGY CAPABLE OF PARALYZING THE URTUMI!
ONCE THE DEVICE WAS REMOVED--THE MONSTER WAS FREE AGAIN TO SATISFY ITS ECTOPLASMIC HUNGER--
--AND THAT'S WHERE I CAME IN!
9


THANKS TO MY SUPER-SPEED THE MONSTER WAS ONLY ABLE TO ABSORB FRACTIONS OF MY ECTOPLASMIC SHELL--
--OTHERWISE BY NOW I'D BE TOTALLY DEPLETED LIKE THOSE ANCIENT HONRU BRAVES CENTURIES AGO!
BUT I'M STILL PARTIALLY DRAINED, AND I'D HATE TO SEE WHAT CONDITION I'D BE IN IF I LOST STILL ANOTHER AFTER-IMAGE!
MY COURSE OF ACTION IS RELATIVELY SIMPLE! NOW THAT I'VE GOT THE SOLAR TABLET--
--ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PLACE IT DIRECTLY IN THE URTUMI'S PATH! SUNLIGHT SHOULD INSTANTLY DO THE REST!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! URTUMI IS EVEN MORE FORMIDABLE THAN I IMAGINED!
HE WAS ABLE TO ZERO-IN ON ME FAST ENOUGH TO ABSORB ANOTHER ECTOPLASMIC FRACTION OF MYSELF!
NOW I'M EVEN WEAKER THAN BEFORE!
BUT NO MATTER-- THE CRISIS IS ALMOST OV--
GREAT SUNS! THE SOLAR TABLET IS HAVING NO EFFECT AT ALL!
URTUMI KEEPS COMING ON--!
10

MARCHING TOWARD CENTRAL CITY--WHERE HE'LL FIND THOUSANDS OF ECTOPLASMIC SHELLS TO FEED ON!
HE HAS TO BE STOPPED!
AS A FATIGUED FLASH RETRIEVES THE ANCIENT ALIEN DEVICE ONCE MORE...
ONLY TWO POSSIBILITIES LEFT! EITHER THE TABLET WAS SOMEHOW DAMAGED WHEN STEIGER REMOVED IT--
--OR IT ONLY FUNCTIONS IN THE ONE SPOT IT WAS ORIGINALLY MOUNTED!
AND AN EYEBLINK LATER, SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS AWAY...
THERE--IT'S BACK WHERE IT BELONGS!
NOW FOR THE BIG PROBLEM: HOW DO I LURE A HUNGRY URTUMI AWAY FROM CENTRAL CITY--MAKE HIM TURN AROUND--
--AND RETURN TO THIS DESERTED STRETCH OF GROUND?
I'M TOO DEPLETED TO TRY TO BRING HIM BACK WITH SHEER FORCE! THAT'S WHY THIS OTHER PLAN IS MY ONLY HOPE!
ANOTHER MOMENT, AND THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE HAS UNEXPECTEDLY LAUNCHED ANOTHER SPEED-ASSAULT...
I DON'T EXPECT THE OLD WHIRLING STUNT TO STOP URTUMI... JUST SPIN HIM AROUND ENOUGH TO DISORIENT HIM!
HE'S LANDING BACK ON THE GROUND!
THIS IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH! WILL HE TAKE THE BAIT?

IT'S WORKING! HE'S HEADING FOR THE CITY!
HIS ECTOPLASMIC HUNGER IS DRIVING HIM FORWARD-- EVEN THOUGH CENTRAL CITY IS NOW BEHIND HIM!
URTUMI DOESN'T REALIZE MY SUPER-SPEED VIBRATIONS CREATED A TEMPORARY "DIMENSIONAL WINDOW" GIVING US A GLIMPSE OF EARTH-TWO--
--AND THE SKYLINE OF KEYSTONE CITY! ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS REAL--IT HAS NO MORE SUBSTANCE THAN A MIRAGE!
THE WINDOW IS STARTING TO FADE--BUT IT'S ALREADY DONE ITS JOB!
THE SKYLINE LURED URTUMI BACK TO THE ORIGINAL SITE OF THE SOLAR TABLET!
AND JUDGING BY THAT GLOWING AURA--
--THE ALIEN DEVICE IS DOING ITS JOB TOO! URTUMI IS BEING DRAWN BACK IN TO HIS UNDER-GROUND PRISON!
2
THERE YOU ARE, FLASH-- I FIGURED I'D FIND YOU HERE! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY TABLET??
IF I WERE YOU, DR STEIGER, I'D FIND A ROCK SOMEWHERE AND SIT DOWN! THERE'S THIS INDIAN LEGEND I'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN TO YOU...
THE END

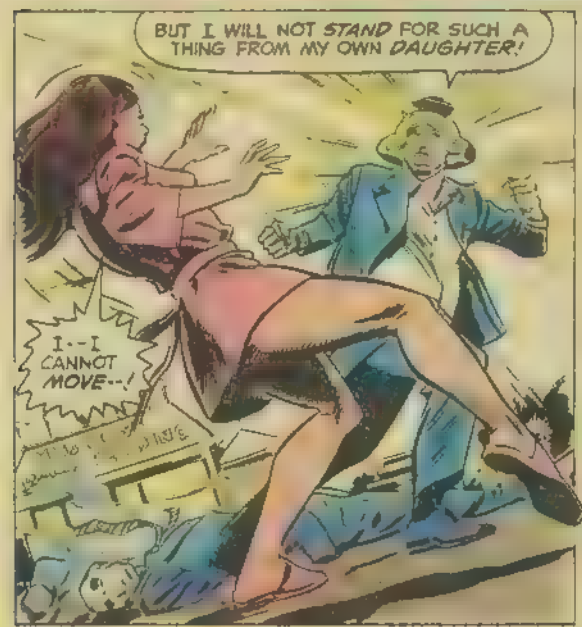
MURDERED BEFORE HIS RIGHTFUL TIME, GRANTED THE BIZARRE ABILITY TO POSSESS LIVING BODIES, THE SPIRIT OF CIRCUS AERIALIST BOSTON BRAND LIVES ON, TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL AS...
DEADMAN
MIND OVER MURDER!
A MINUTE AGO, THOSE GOONS WERE HOLDING LORNA AND THE GANG AT GUN-POINT, AND NOW THEY'RE ALL DEAD--
--TURNED INTO STATISTICS BY A SINGLE THOUGHT FROM THE OLD MAN WEARING THAT FREAKY HELMET!
I DO NOT BELIEVE IT!
THE ULTIMATE POWER AT LAST IS MINE-- AND NO ONE WILL EVER TAKE IT FROM ME AGAIN!
AN ADVENTURE INTO IRONIC VENGEANCE WITH--
LEN WEIN WRITER
J. GARCIA LOPEZ & P. CHIARAMONTE ARTISTS
GLYNIS WEIN COLORIST
BEN ODA LETTERER
PAUL LEVITZ ASSIST. EDITOR
J-5942


I AIN'T NEVER SEEN NOTHIN' LIKE IT!
INDEED, YOUNG LITA--BUT IT WAS ALSO JUSTICE OF A KIND!
ALL THAT POWER IS MAKING INGA'S FATHER CRAZY!
IT--IT WAS HORRIBLE!
THEN WE'D BETTER CALM HIM DOWN, CLEVE-- WHILE WE STILL CAN!

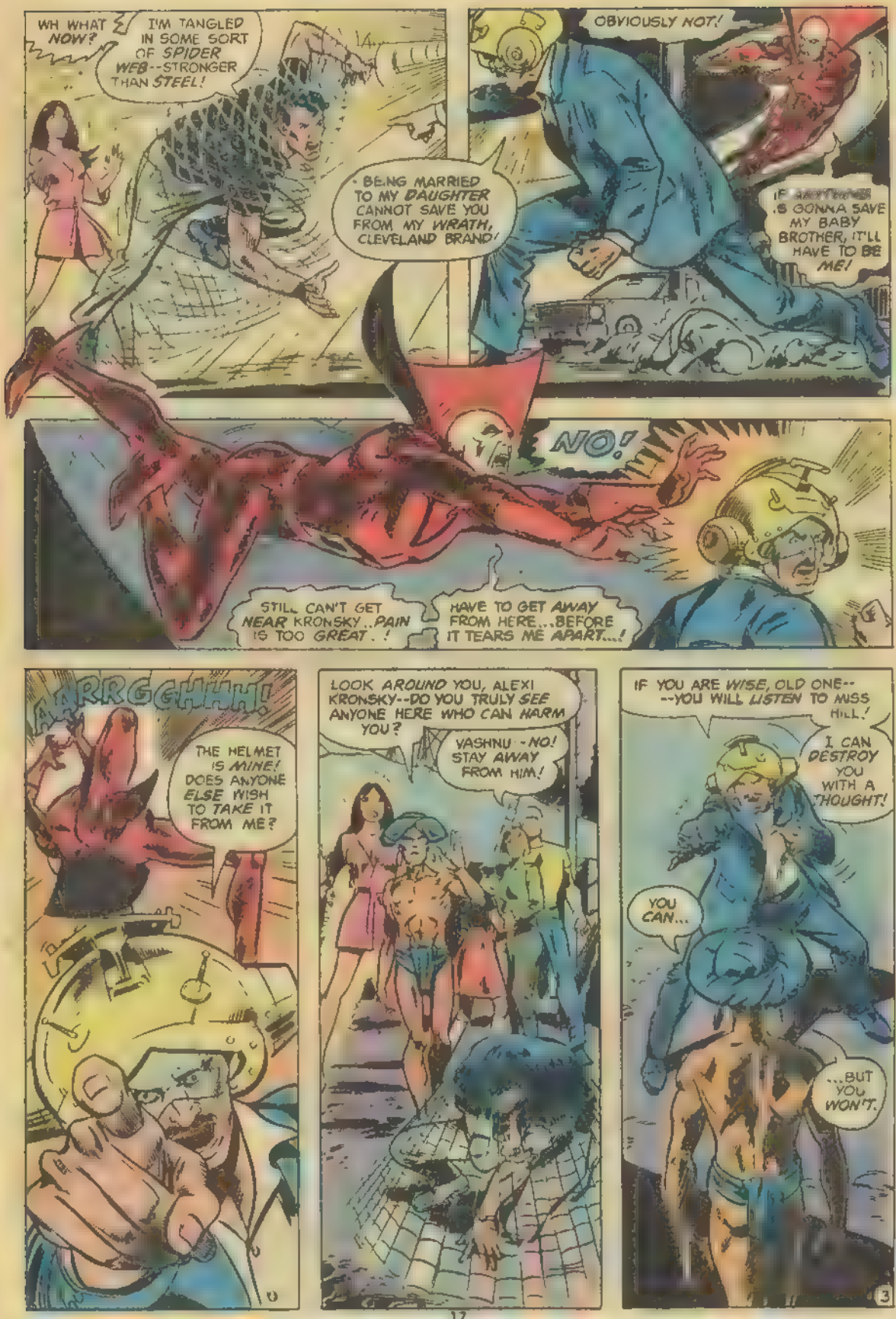
WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO, BUT I CAN'T EVEN TOUCH THAT SCREWY HELMET WITHOUT -- HUH?
INGA-- DON'T!!

PAPA? PLEASE, PAPA-- YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME!
GIVE ME THE HELMET, PAPA--BEFORE IT DESTROYS YOU AS IT DID THOSE OTHERS!

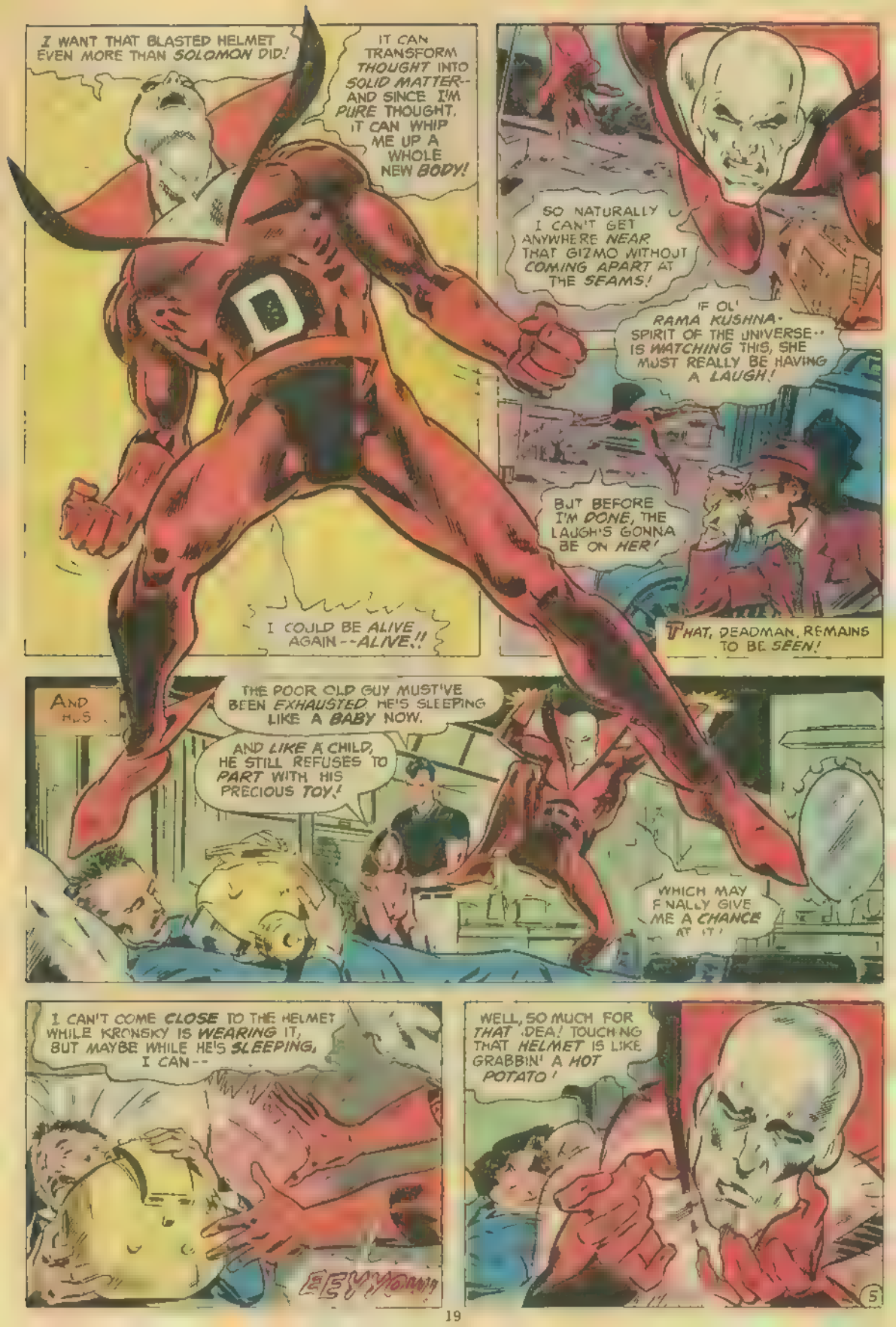
NO--NOT YOU ALSO INGA!
EVERYONE TRIES TO STEAL MY HELMET FROM ME-- EVERYONE!!


BUT I WILL NOT STAND FOR SUCH A THING FROM MY OWN DAUGHTER!
I--I CANNOT MOVE--!

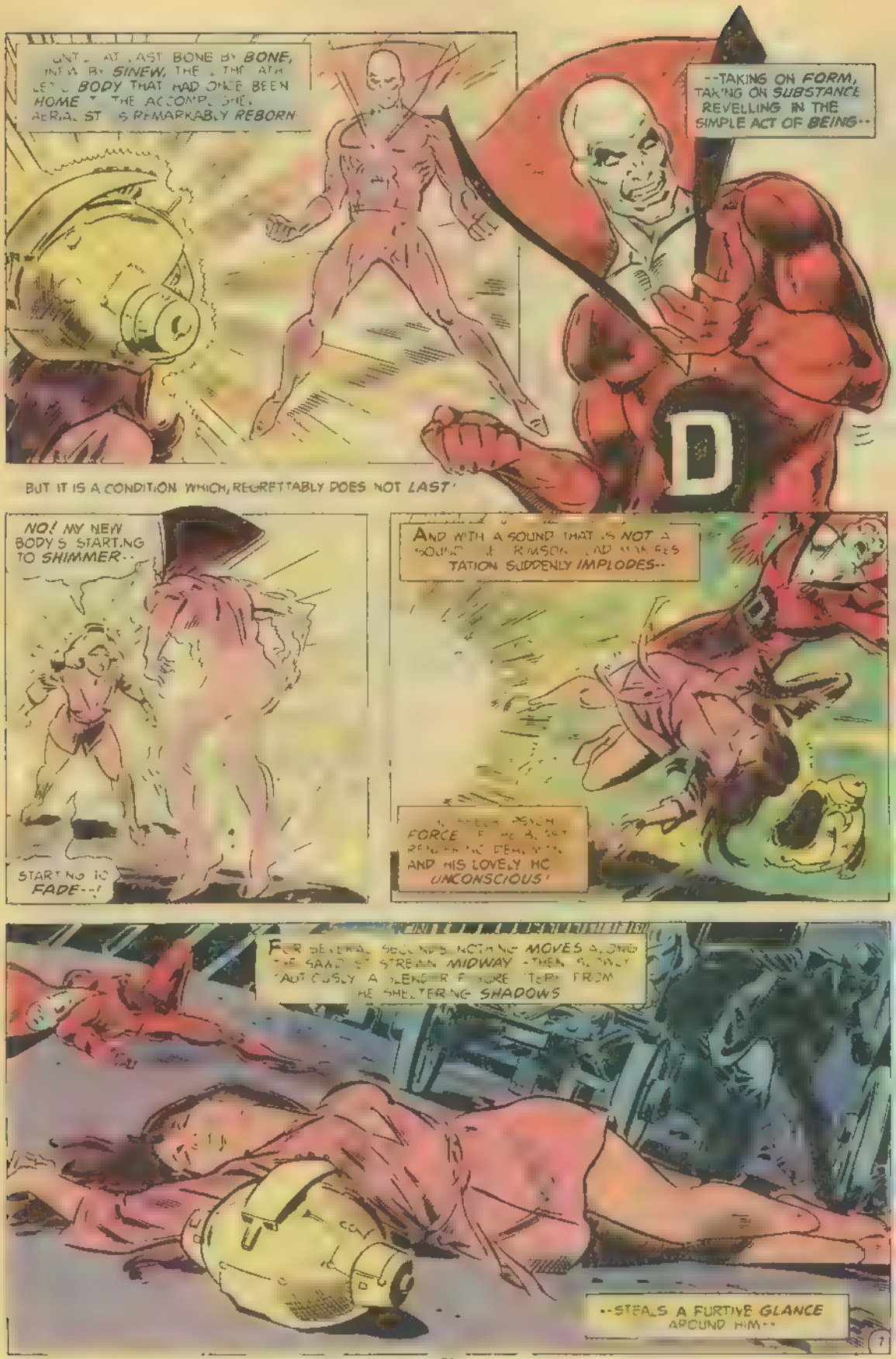
BUT I CAN STILL MOVE, INGA HONEY-- AND I'M GONNA MAKE THE MOST OF IT!
FOOL! YOU WERE WARNED!

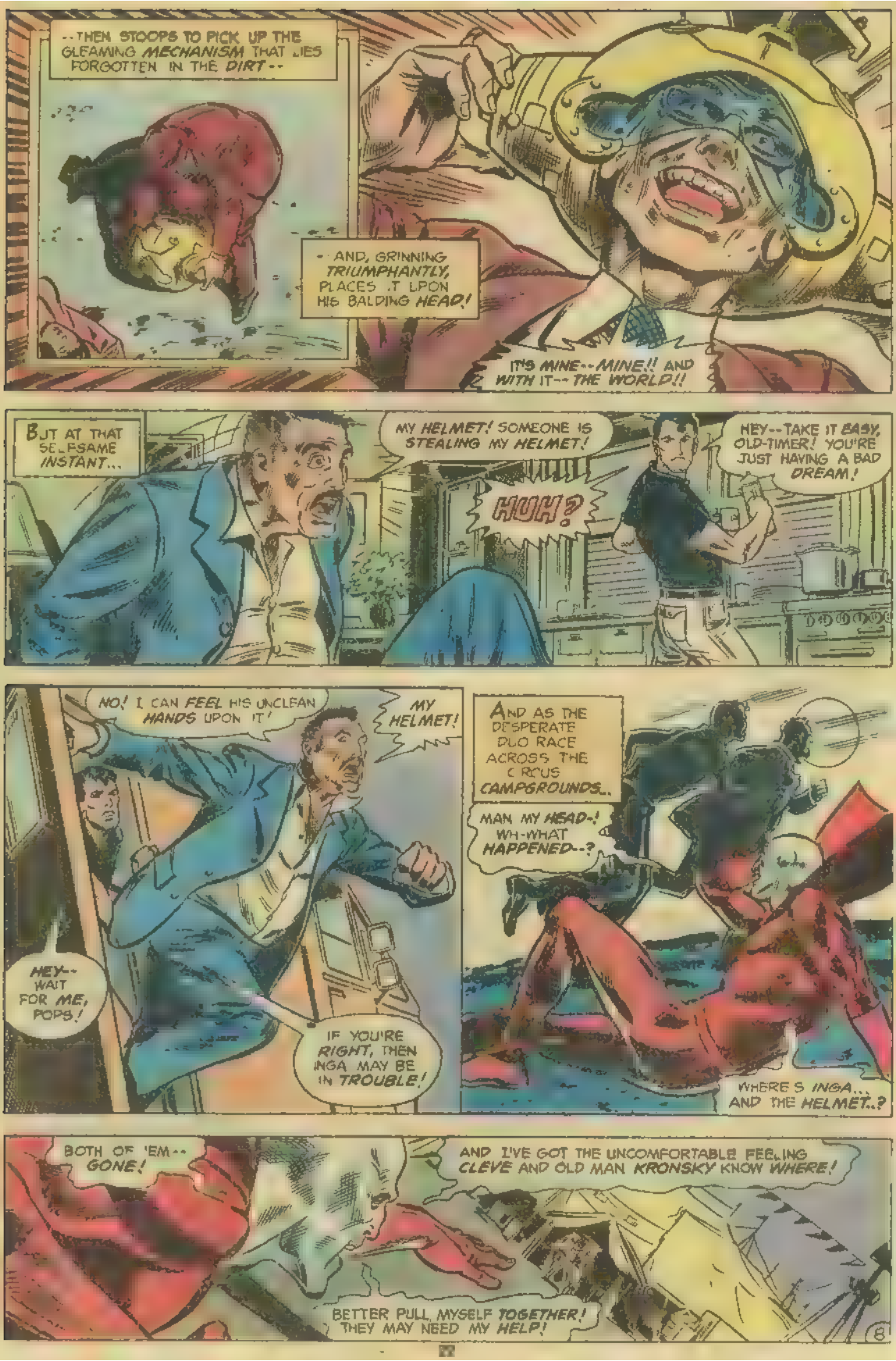

WH WHAT NOW?
I'M TANGLED IN SOME SORT OF SPIDER WEB--STRONGER THAN STEEL!
BEING MARRIED TO MY DAUGHTER CANNOT SAVE YOU FROM MY WRATH, CLEVELAND BRAND!
OBVIOUSLY NOT!
IF ANYTHING IS GONNA SAVE MY BABY BROTHER, IT'LL HAVE TO BE ME!
NO!
STILL CAN'T GET NEAR KRONSKY..PAIN IS TOO GREAT..!
HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE...BEFORE IT TEARS ME APART...!
ARRRGHHH!
THE HELMET IS MINE! DOES ANYONE ELSE WISH TO TAKE IT FROM ME?
LOOK AROUND YOU, ALEXI KRONSKY--DO YOU TRULY SEE ANYONE HERE WHO CAN HARM YOU?
VASHNU - NO! STAY AWAY FROM HIM!
IF YOU ARE WISE, OLD ONE--
--YOU WILL LISTEN TO MISS HILL!
I CAN DESTROY YOU WITH A THOUGHT!
YOU CAN...
...BUT YOU WON'T.

ONLY A FOOL WOULD SO CASUALLY DESTROY THOSE WHO ONLY SEEK TO HELP HIM...
..AND YOU ARE CERTAINLY NOT A FOOL!
I WARN YOU-- STAY BACK!!
YOU DO NOT MEAN THAT - NOT DEEP IN YOUR HEART!
WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS, ALEXI KRONSKY--PERHAPS YOUR ONLY FRIENDS! SURELY YOU CAN SEE THAT NOW?
MY FRIENDS--? YES I -I NEED FRIENDS.
GOD HOW I NEED SOMEONE
INGA, CLEVELAND ..PLEASE FORGIVE THIS OLD FOOL! I D.D NOT KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING!
THERE IS NOTHING TO FORGIVE PAPA YOU HAVE BEEN HURT.. ALONE...
...BUT WE WILL HELP YOU TO GET WELL AGAIN.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, INGA DOLL.
YOUR OLD MAN'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT LATELY FIRST SMUGGLING THAT CRAZY HELMET OF HIS OUT THROUGH THE IRON CURTAIN...
..THEN MAKING THE MISTAKE OF TRYING TO SELL IT TO THE LATE MISTER SOLOMON HERE!
SOLOMON SAW THE HELMET AS HIS TICKET TO EASY STREET, BUT ALL IT GOT HIM WAS A SHORT CUT TO THE GRAVE!
THAT OUGHT'A BE THE END OF IT--EXCEPT FOR ONE LITTLE CATCH!
4

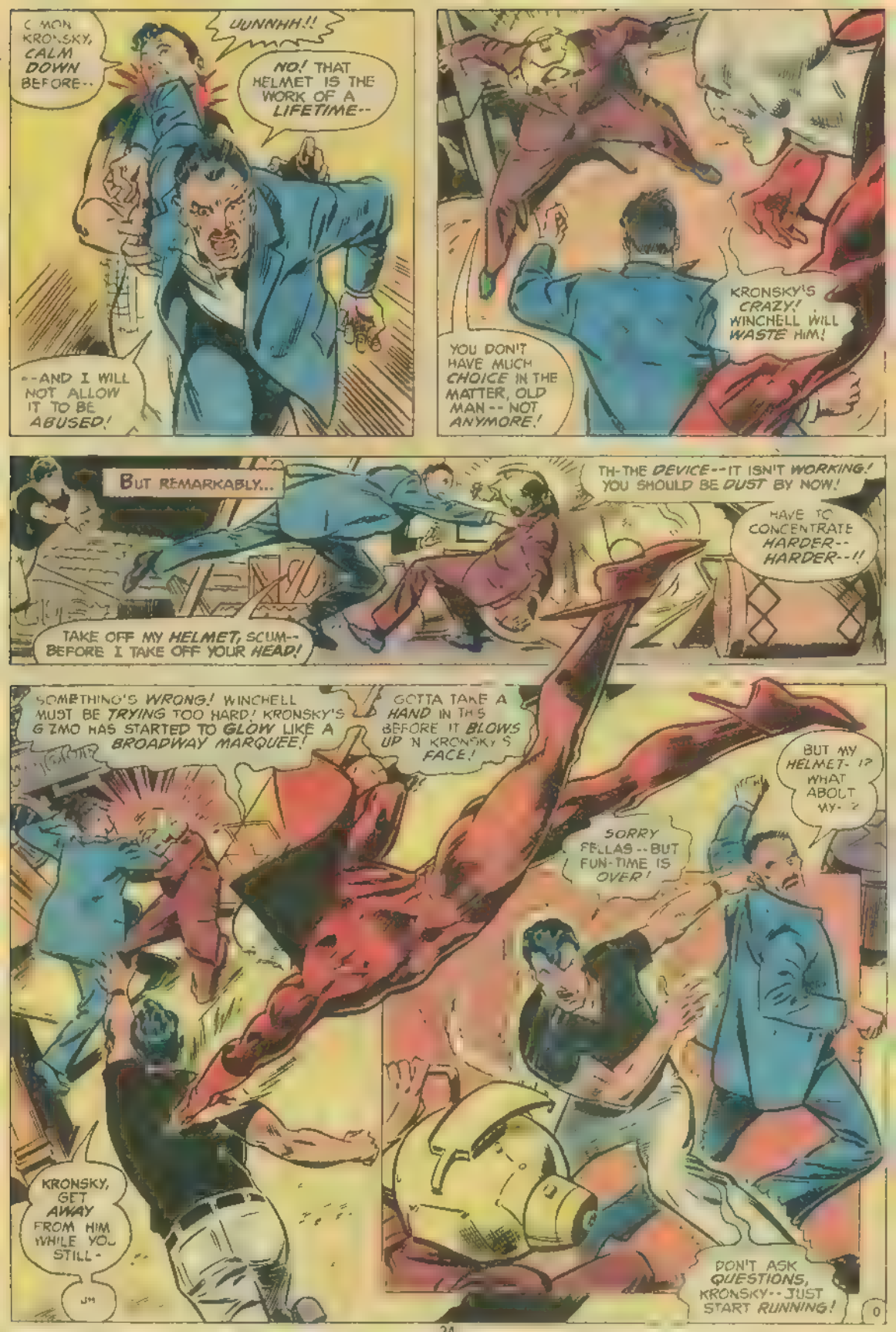

I WANT THAT BLASTED HELMET EVEN MORE THAN SOLOMON DID!
IT CAN TRANSFORM THOUGHT INTO SOLID MATTER-- AND SINCE I'M PURE THOUGHT, IT CAN WHIP ME UP A WHOLE NEW BODY!
I COULD BE ALIVE AGAIN--ALIVE!!
SO NATURALLY I CAN'T GET ANYWHERE NEAR THAT GIZMO WITHOUT COMING APART AT THE SEAMS!
IF OL' RAMA KUSHNA- SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSE-- IS WATCHING THIS, SHE MUST REALLY BE HAVING A LAUGH!
BUT BEFORE I'M DONE, THE LAUGH'S GONNA BE ON HER!
THAT, DEADMAN, REMAINS TO BE SEEN!
AND HE'S
THE POOR OLD GUY MUST'VE BEEN EXHAUSTED HE'S SLEEPING LIKE A BABY NOW.
AND LIKE A CHILD, HE STILL REFUSES TO PART WITH HIS PRECIOUS TOY!
WHICH MAY FINALLY GIVE ME A CHANCE AT IT!
I CAN'T COME CLOSE TO THE HELMET WHILE KRONSKY IS WEARING IT, BUT MAYBE WHILE HE'S SLEEPING, I CAN--
EEYYOWW!
WELL, SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA! TOUCHING THAT HELMET IS LIKE GRABBIN' A HOT POTATO!
5

DON'T KNOW WHAT I FIGURED TO ACCOMPLISH BY THAT ANYHOW!
THE ONLY WAY I CAN USE THAT GIZMO IS BY POSSESSING WHOEVER IS WEARING IT--AND I CAN'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO KRONSKY TO DO THAT!
WHAT THE HELL GOOD IS HAVING THE POWER IF I CAN'T USE IT TO-- EH?
INGA BABY, IF I HAD LIPS-- I'D KISS YOU!
PAPA SLEEPS PEACEFULLY NOW, CLEVELAND I THINK I WILL TAKE HIS MACHINE OVER TO LORNA.
--ASK HER TO LOCK IT AWAY WHERE IT WILL BE SAFE!
MAYBE I CAN'T GET NEAR KRONSKY, BUT YOU ARE SOMETHING ELSE!
I'LL BABY-SIT YOUR DAD TILL YOU GET BACK, BABE.
I WILL NOT BE LONG.
SMARTEST MOVE MY TWIN BROTHER EVER MADE WAS MARRYING YOU, INGA.
YOU'RE GENTLE.. LOVING..
AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE A DEADMAN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE!
OH
DID IT! WHATEVER PREVENTS ME FROM POSSESSING KRONSKY WHILE HE HOLDS THE HELMET DOESN'T AFFECT INGA!
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO WORK THIS GIZMO-- BUT NOW'S THE TIME TO FIND OUT!
BROW IN CONCENTRATION, THE STAR... OF BOSTON BRAND STRAINS AS HE... HIS "PAINFUL" BEFORE--
STRUGGLING TO RECONSTRUCT... HIMSELF FROM THE DEPTHS... HIS OWN TRAUMA-PSYCHE
6

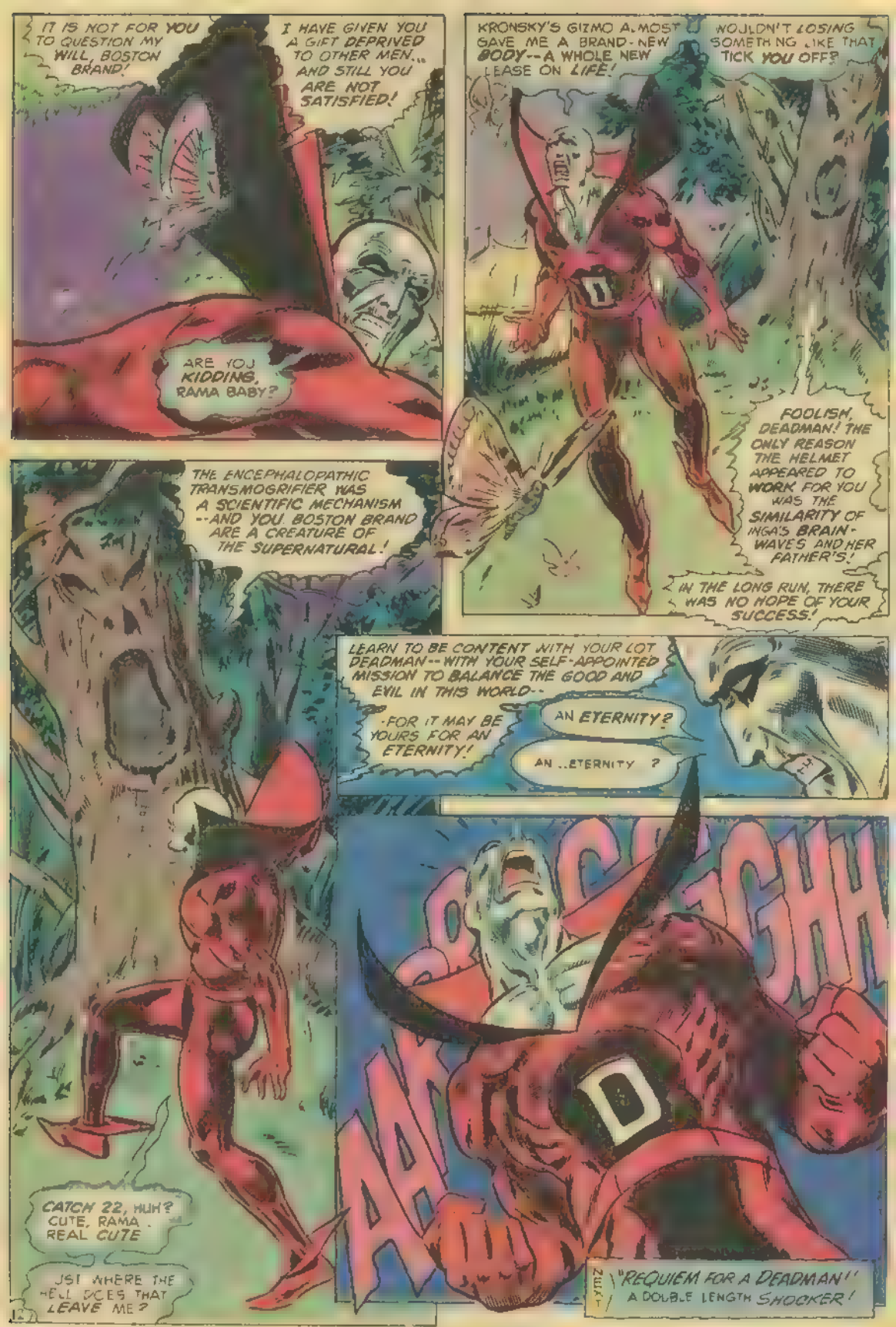

--TAKING ON FORM, TAKING ON SUBSTANCE REVELLING IN THE SIMPLE ACT OF BEING--
BUT IT IS A CONDITION WHICH, REGRETTABLY DOES NOT LAST!
NO! MY NEW BODY'S STARTING TO SHIMMER--
STARTING TO FADE--!
AND WITH A SOUND THAT IS NOT A SOUND AT ALL REASON AND MANIFESTATION SUDDENLY IMPLODES--
AND HIS LOVELY HC UNCONSCIOUS!
--STEALS A FURTIVE GLANCE AROUND HIM--


--THEN STOOPS TO PICK UP THE GLEAMING MECHANISM THAT LIES FORGOTTEN IN THE DIRT--
--AND, GRINNING TRIUMPHANTLY, PLACES IT UPON HIS BALDING HEAD!
IT'S MINE--MINE!! AND WITH IT--THE WORLD!!
BUT AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT...
MY HELMET! SOMEONE IS STEALING MY HELMET!
HUH?
HEY--TAKE IT EASY, OLD-TIMER! YOU'RE JUST HAVING A BAD DREAM!
NO! I CAN FEEL HIS UNCLEAN HANDS UPON IT!
MY HELMET!
HEY--WAIT FOR ME, POPS!
IF YOU'RE RIGHT, THEN INGA MAY BE IN TROUBLE!
AND AS THE DESPERATE DUO RACE ACROSS THE CIRCUS CAMPGROUNDS..
MAN MY HEAD-! WH-WHAT HAPPENED--?
WHERE'S INGA... AND THE HELMET..?
BOTH OF 'EM--GONE!
AND I'VE GOT THE UNCOMFORTABLE FEELING CLEVE AND OLD MAN KRONSKY KNOW WHERE!
BETTER PULL MYSELF TOGETHER! THEY MAY NEED MY HELP!
8

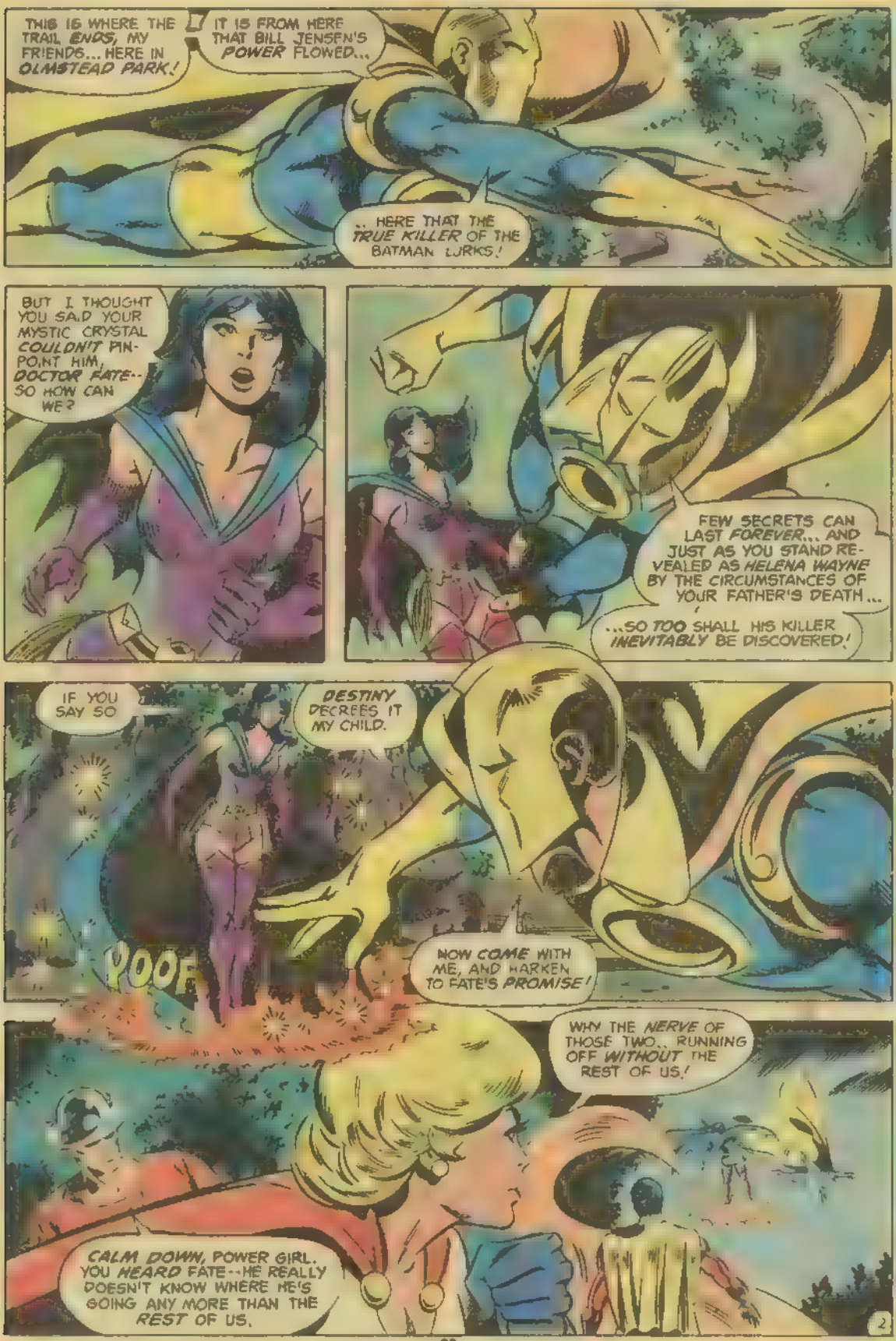
AND MOMENTS LATER, UNDER THE BIG TOP, WHERE MUCH OF THE CIRCUS EQUIPMENT IS BEING STORED...
WINCHELL! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WAS YOU, YOU SLIMY LITTLE WORM!
HAVE A CARE, BRAND! I HAVE THE POWER NOW! CROSS ME AND SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!
NO! THE HELMET IS NOT YOURS! GIVE IT BACK TO ME!
DAMN! WITH SOLOMON DEAD, I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN HIS WEAK-KNEED LITTLE UNDERLING!
HAVE TO PLAY THIS COOL!
KRONSKY, DON'T BE AN IDIOT! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT HELMET CAN DO TO YOU!
NO! IT IS MINE-- MINE!
WRONG, OLD MAN! IT'S MINE!
SO LONG AS I WEAR THIS HELMET, I'M NO LONGER A SNIVELLING SYCOPHANT, LICKING THE BOOTS OF FOOLS LIKE SOLOMON!
INSTEAD I'M THE RIGHTFUL MASTER OF THE WORLD!
SOLOMON THOUGHT HYPNOTIZING HIS HIRED MUSCLEMEN WOULD PROTECT THEM FROM THE POWER OF THIS HELMET --BUT HIS ERROR COST HIM HIS LIFE!
BAH! YOU DO NOT FRIGHTEN ME, LITTLE MAN!
TONIGHT GREAT
JUST AS IT SHALL COST YOU YOURS IF YOU TAKE ANOTHER STEP TOWARD ME!
HYPNOSIS, HUH? SO THAT'S WHY I WASN'T ABLE TO CONTROL SOLOMON'S MAN GUNTHER OR THE THUG WHO TRIED TO SHOOT CLEVE!*
THEIR MINDS WEREN'T WHOLLY THEIRS TO BEGIN WITH!
*AS DETAILED IN ADVENTURE #459 & 46 - PAUL


C'MON KRONSKY, CALM DOWN BEFORE--
UUNNHH!!
NO! THAT HELMET IS THE WORK OF A LIFETIME--
--AND I WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO BE ABUSED!
KRONSKY'S CRAZY! WINCHELL WILL WASTE HIM!
YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE IN THE MATTER, OLD MAN -- NOT ANYMORE!
BUT REMARKABLY...
TH-THE DEVICE--IT ISN'T WORKING! YOU SHOULD BE DUST BY NOW!
HAVE TO CONCENTRATE HARDER-- HARDER--!!
TAKE OFF MY HELMET, SCUM-- BEFORE I TAKE OFF YOUR HEAD!
SOMETHING'S WRONG! WINCHELL MUST BE TRYING TOO HARD! KRONSKY'S GIZMO HAS STARTED TO GLOW LIKE A BROADWAY MARQUEE!
GOTTA TAKE A HAND IN THIS BEFORE IT BLOWS UP IN KRONSKY'S FACE!
BUT MY HELMET- !? WHAT ABOUT MY- ?
SORRY FELLAS -- BUT FUN-TIME IS OVER!
KRONSKY, GET AWAY FROM HIM WHILE YOU STILL-
JM
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS, KRONSKY-- JUST START RUNNING!

THE WAY THAT GIZMO IS GLOWING, IT'S GONNA SPLATTER ITSELF -- AND US -- ALL OVER THE CANVAS...
UNLESS...
YOU HAVEN'T A PRAYER, BRAND! ONCE I MAKE THIS CURSED HELMET WORK FOR ME, I WILL--!
BUT YOU WON'T, WINCHELL -- NOT IN THIS LIFETIME!
I JUST HOPE THERE'S WATER IN THAT SEAL TANK!
NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! YOU CAN'T--!!
BUT, AN INSTANT LATER, ALL OF WINCHELL'S PROTESTS BECOME HIGHLY ACADEMIC!
KWA-WHOOM
MADE IT-- WITHOUT A HAIR TO SPARE!
AND WHEN THE DUST HAS FINALLY SETTLED...
GONE... MY LIFE'S WORK... SENSELESSLY DESTROYED! I... I HAVE NOTHING LEFT...!
YOU STILL HAVE US, PAPA... AND THAT IS ENOUGH.
I PROMISE YOU, PAPA -- YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE US!
WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME. NGA
I SAVED A COUPLE OF LIVES DESTROYING KRONSKY'S G.IZMO--
--BUT I LOST MY OWN CHANCE AT LIFE IN THE PROCESS!
I WAS SO CLOSE -- SO DAMNED CLOSE!
WHY DO YOU KEEP TAUNTING ME LIKE THIS RAMA KUSHNA-- WHY??

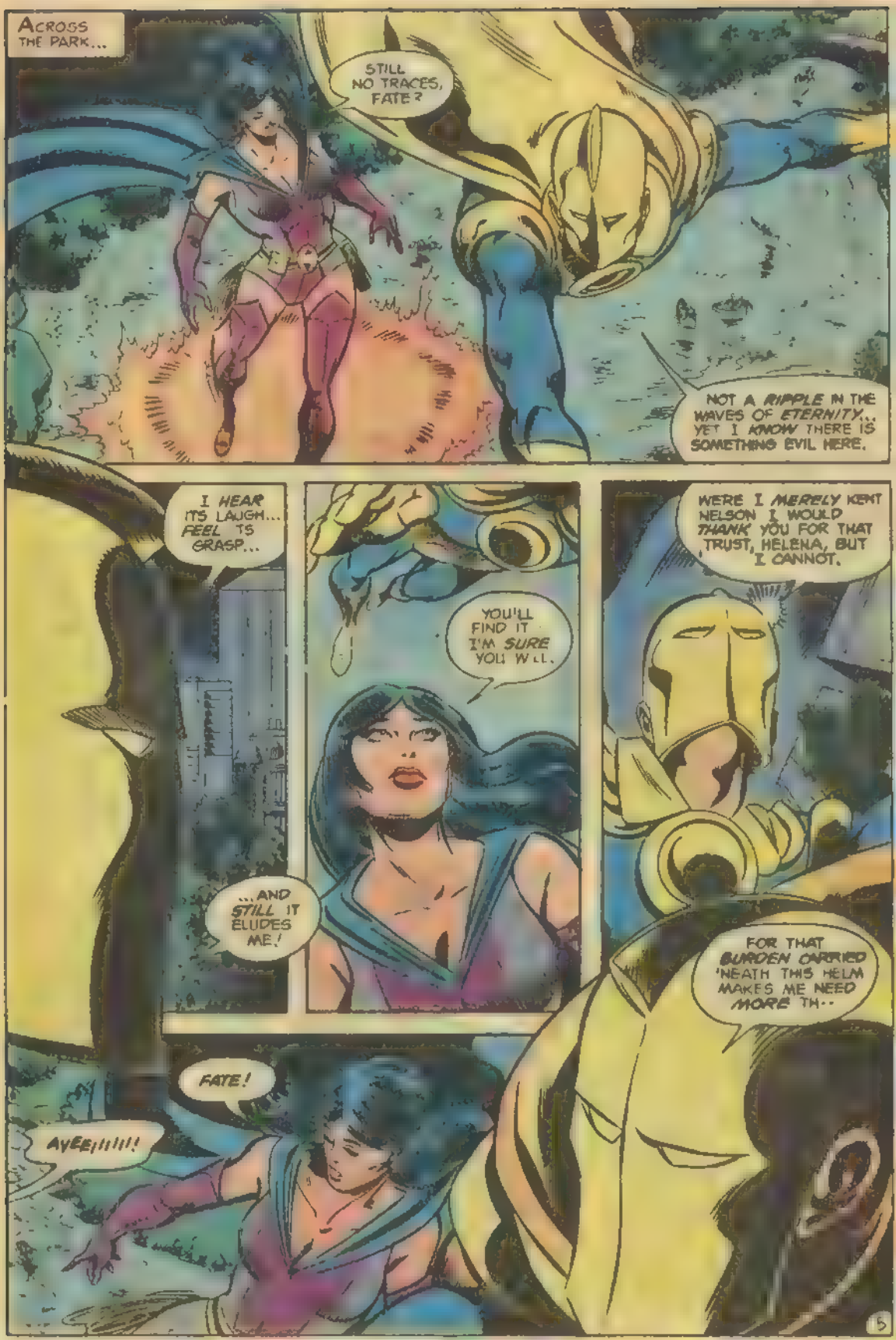

IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO QUESTION MY WILL, BOSTON BRAND!
I HAVE GIVEN YOU A GIFT DEPRIVED TO OTHER MEN... AND STILL YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED!
ARE YOJ KIDDING, RAMA BABY?
KRONSKY'S GIZMO A.MOST GAVE ME A BRAND-NEW BODY--A WHOLE NEW LEASE ON LIFE!
WOULDN'T LOSING SOMETH NG LIKE THAT TICK YOU OFF?
FOOLISH, DEADMAN! THE ONLY REASON THE HELMET APPEARED TO WORK FOR YOU WAS THE SIMILARITY OF INGA'S BRAIN-WAVES AND HER FATHER'S!
IN THE LONG RUN, THERE WAS NO HOPE OF YOUR SUCCESS!
THE ENCEPHALOPATHIC TRANSMOGRIFIER WAS A SCIENTIFIC MECHANISM --AND YOU, BOSTON BRAND ARE A CREATURE OF THE SUPERNATURAL!
LEARN TO BE CONTENT WITH YOUR LOT DEADMAN--WITH YOUR SELF-APPOINTED MISSION TO BALANCE THE GOOD AND EVIL IN THIS WORLD--
-FOR IT MAY BE YOURS FOR AN ETERNITY!
AN ETERNITY?
AN ..ETERNITY ?
AARGH
CATCH 22, HUH? CUTE, RAMA. REAL CUTE
JST WHERE THE HELL DOES THAT LEAVE ME?
NEXT! "REQUIEM FOR A DEADMAN!" A DOUBLE LENGTH SHOCKER!

EARTH-TWO--A WORLD MUCH LIKE OUR OWN, YET SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT. A WORLD WHERE YOUNG AND OLD HEROES HAVE JOINED FORCES TO BATTLE EVIL AS THE--
JUSTICE SOCIETY
YESTERDAY A LIVING LEGEND DIED BUT NOW THE TIME HAS COME FOR VENGEANCE AND FOR
The NIGHT of THE SOUL THIEF!
An Adventure Into The Unknown by
PAUL LEVITZ WRITER
JOE STATON PENCILLER


THIS IS WHERE THE TRAIL ENDS, MY FRIENDS... HERE IN OLMSTEAD PARK!
IT IS FROM HERE THAT BILL JENSEN'S POWER FLOWED...
.. HERE THAT THE TRUE KILLER OF THE BATMAN LURKS!
BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOUR MYSTIC CRYSTAL COULDN'T PIN-POINT HIM, DOCTOR FATE.. SO HOW CAN WE?
FEW SECRETS CAN LAST FOREVER... AND JUST AS YOU STAND RE-VEALED AS HELENA WAYNE BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR FATHER'S DEATH...
...SO TOO SHALL HIS KILLER INEVITABLY BE DISCOVERED!
IF YOU SAY SO
DESTINY DECREES IT MY CHILD.
POOF
NOW COME WITH ME, AND HARKEN TO FATE'S PROMISE!
WHY THE NERVE OF THOSE TWO.. RUNNING OFF WITHOUT THE REST OF US!
CALM DOWN, POWER GIRL. YOU HEARD FATE--HE REALLY DOESN'T KNOW WHERE HE'S GOING ANY MORE THAN THE REST OF US.
2

IT MAKES SENSE FOR US TO SPLIT UP-- SEARCH THE PARK FOR CLUES.
DON'T BE LIKE WILDCAT-- REMEMBER HOW HARD IT WAS TO PERSUADE HIM THAT HE HAD TO STAY BEHIND--
FINISH RECOVERING FROM HIS INJURIES!
BESIDES--IT'S A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT FOR A JOG!
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, FLASH--
HI!
--AFTER ALL, I STILL OWE YOU A REMATCH FOR THAT RACE YOU WON A FEW MONTHS BACK!
WHOOSH
NOW WHERE? DO WE JUST GO IN CIRCLES?
DON'T WORRY, POWER GIRL.
THERE'S NOTHING SO CERTAIN IN MY EXPERIENCE AS THE FACT THAT WHEN YOU LOOK FOR TROUBLE--
--IT FINDS YOU FIRST.

MEANWHILE.
EASY, GREEN' LANTERN. EVEN WITH THAT BEACON IT'S STILL HARD TO FIND FOOTING.
SORRY, ROBIN. I'LL SLOW UP.
THANKS--AND YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST CALL ME DICK...EVERYONE ELSE WILL NOW.
WONDER HOW THE PRESIDENT IS REACTING TO THE NEWS THAT ONE OF HIS AMBASSADORS MOONLIGHTS AS A SUPER-HERO?
IT STILL HASN'T QUITE SUNK IN THAT THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS HELENA'S AND MY "SECRET" IDENTITIES NOW
HMPH! I DON'T THINK IT'S EVEN SUNK IN THAT BRUCE IS DEAD!
IT HASN'T BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR, HAS IT... ESPECIALLY FOR HELENA.
FIRST HER MOTHER LAST SUMMER, NOW HER FATHER ... AND HER SECRET IDENTITY GONE. IT'S HARD TO HANDLE.
YOU LEARN TO COPE, G.L.--YOU HAVE TO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED WHEN MY FOLKS WERE KILLED AND BRUCE TOOK ME IN--
--AND NOW I HAVE TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN, AND HELP HELENA IN THE BARGAIN.
"BUT I STILL THINK THE TOUGHEST PART OF IT WAS FINDING OUT THAT JENSEN REALLY WASN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN ACTIONS."
"--AND WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO WAS!"
4


ACROSS THE PARK...
STILL NO TRACES, FATE?
NOT A RIPPLE IN THE WAVES OF ETERNITY.. YET I KNOW THERE IS SOMETHING EVIL HERE.
I HEAR ITS LAUGH... FEEL TS GRASP...
YOU'LL FIND IT I'M SURE YOU WILL.
...AND STILL IT ELUDES ME!
WERE I MERELY KENT NELSON I WOULD THANK YOU FOR THAT TRUST, HELENA, BUT I CANNOT.
FOR THAT BURDEN CARRIED 'NEATH THIS HELM MAKES ME NEED MORE TH..
FATE!
AYEE!!!!!!
5

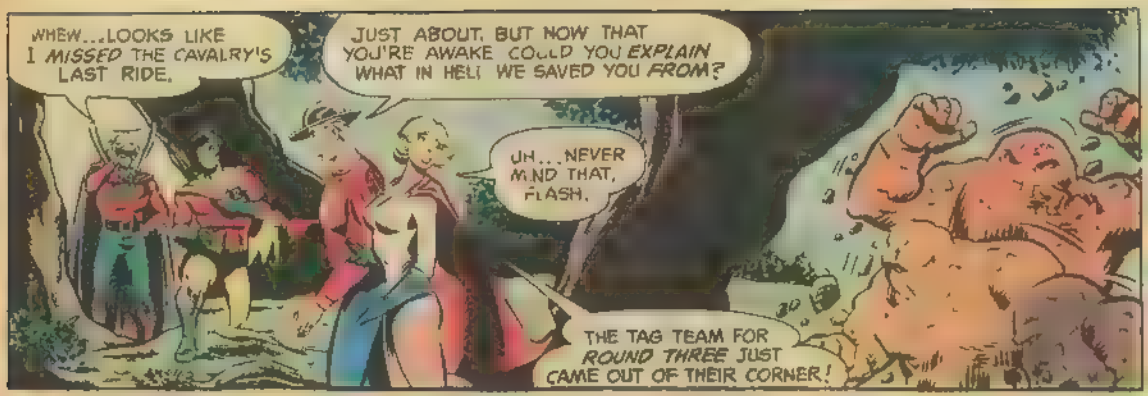
LOOK!
IT IS A WATER ELEMENTAL--LOOSED ON THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE BY OUR UNKNOWN FOE!
IT IS DANGEROUS - BUT SHOULD BE WITHIN OUR POWER TO HALT!
YOUR POWER, MAYBE! I'LL TRY MY TRANQUILIZER DARTS, BUT I DON'T THINK THEY'LL DO MUCH GOOD
AWOOOOO
PTONG
OH NO!
FATE--IT'S RIPPING YOUR SPELL APART!

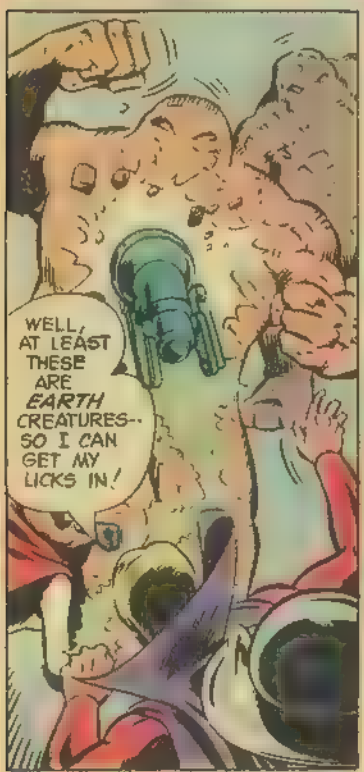
I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING COULD DO THAT!
YOUR FATHER'S KILLER WAS GIVEN A POWER BEYOND MINE, HELENA... AND IT APPEARS THAT GIFT WAS ONLY ONE OF MANY.
STILL, HOPE MUST NOT BE ABANDONED.
NOT WHEN THERE ARE ENCHANTMENTS UNUSED!
AWOOOOOO
INCREDIBLE! THE ELEMENTAL HAS BEEN GIVEN POWER OVER FIRE AS WELL AS WATER!
I THOUGHT THAT A LOST ARTIFICE!
WHOOSH
BUT EVEN AS FATE STARES DEEP INTO THE CREATURE'S SEEMINGLY NUMBERLESS EYES, A SILENT COMMUNICATION TAKES PLACE. A VISION OF WHAT MIGHT BE.
FATE SEES THE HELPLESS FORM OF HIS COMPANION CRUSHED.
VERY WELL
IF THAT IS THE PRICE OF PASSAGE, I ACCEPT.
EVEN IF IT COSTS MY LIFE, FATE MUST MEET YOUR MASTER!
ARGGHH!
SMASH!
7

WHILE AT THE NORTH END OF THE PARK
THAT'S THREE POINTLESS LAPS, FLASH ANY MORE BRIGHT IDEAS?
NO IF THERE'S ANYTHING IN THIS BLASTED PLACE, IT KNOWS HOW TO KEEP AWAY FROM US!
OKAY THEN, LAST ONE OUT OF THE PARK PICKS UP THE TAB AT LUCHOW'S--
--THE SOUTH GATE OF THE PARK, OF COURSE!
NO FAIR--
POWER GIRL-
--YOU TOOK
A HALF STEP
--HEAD START!
WHOOSH
SO NEXT TIME GET AN OFFICIAL STARTER!
BESIDES YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS 'CAUSE I WON THIS TIME!
HERE--HAVE A CONSOLATION PRIZE!
POWER GIRL -
--I DON'T THINK IT'S EXACTLY THE RIGHT TIME FOR THAT!
AROOOOOOO
IT'S SOME SORT OF FIERY MONSTER --COMING FROM THE NEON SIGNS
YEP
REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT TROUBLE FINDING US?

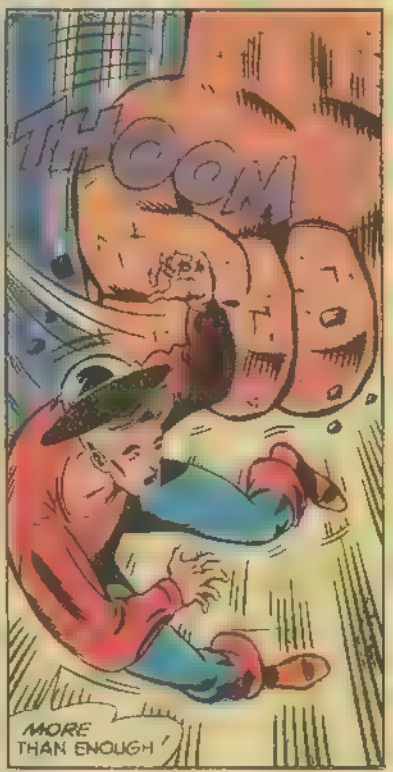
UHRRRGG
UH UH ,WELL NEXT TIME WHY DON'T YOU PREDICT A PEACEFUL EVENING INSTEAD?
IT'D BE A NICE CHANGE OF PACE!
KLMP
WHOOSH
VERY FUNNY.
IF YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA I'D LOVE TO HEAR IT
YEOOW--
--SNCE I'M GETTING NOWHERE AGAINST THIS THING!
THEN HOLD ON TIGHT, POWER GIRL, AND LET EXPERIENCE BE YOUR GUIDE!
AWOOOOO
BECAUSE IF THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW -
-IT'S THAT FIRE AND WATER DON'T MIX!
YOU DIDN'T REALLY KNOW THAT WOULD WORK, DID YOU?
NO, BUT--
BUT IT MATTERS NOT, FLASH--NOT IN THE END!

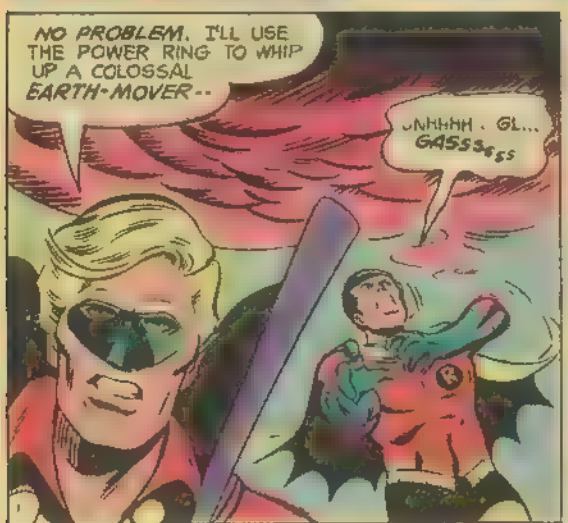
AN END SEEMINGLY ECHOED ELSEWHERE IN THE PARK
THEY'VE GOT US, ROBIN -- I CAN'T STOP THEM!
WHOEVER WE'RE FIGHTING MUST KNOW MY RING'S POWER CAN'T AFFECT WOOD--
--AND THESE TREES ARE KILLING ME!
I GAVE UP BELIEVING IN EVIL ENCHANTED FORESTS WHEN I WAS SIX, G.L. · DON'T TELL ME I WAS WRONG!
GL???
HE'S ALREADY OUT COLD!
AND IF THIS WEEPING WILLOW GETS A TIGHTER GRIP ON ME, I'LL BE JOINING HIM... UNLESS..
THANK HEAVEN FOR MINI-LASERS AND UTILITY BELTS!
RELAX, ROBIN--
--HELP'S ON THE WAY!
POWER GIRL AND I WILL HAVE THESE TREES CUT INTO CHOPSTICKS IN NO TIME FLAT!
KRAK
10

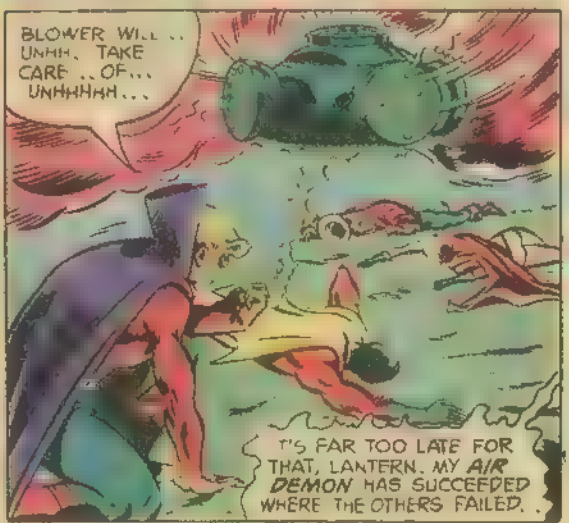

WHEW...LOOKS LIKE I MISSED THE CAVALRY'S LAST RIDE.
JUST ABOUT. BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE AWAKE COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT IN HELL WE SAVED YOU FROM?
UH...NEVER MIND THAT, FLASH.
THE TAG TEAM FOR ROUND THREE JUST CAME OUT OF THEIR CORNER!


WELL, AT LEAST THESE ARE EARTH CREATURES-- SO I CAN GET MY LICKS IN!

FEEL FREE, LANTERN--
WHUMP
THERE ARE ENOUGH TO GO AROUND!

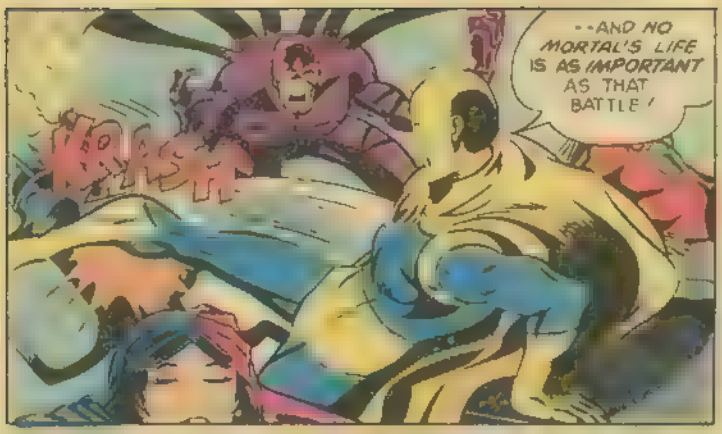

THOOM
MORE THAN ENOUGH!


NO PROBLEM. I'LL USE THE POWER RING TO WHIP UP A COLOSSAL EARTH-MOVER--
UNHHHH. GL... GASSSSSS

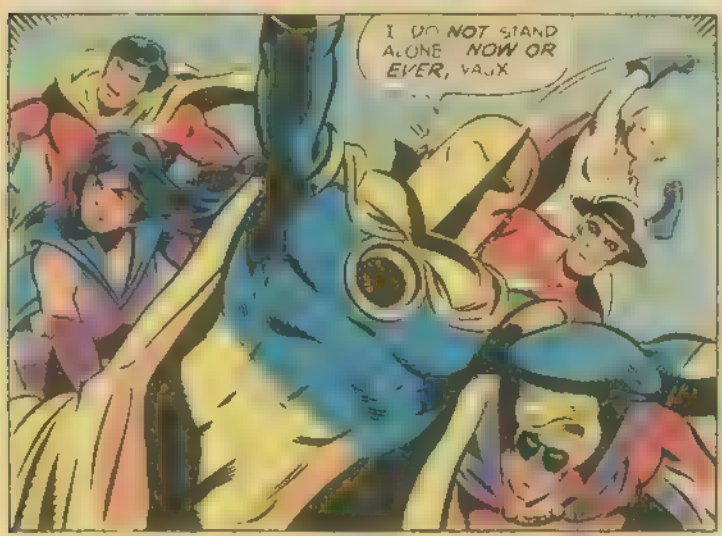

BLOWER WILL.. UNHH. TAKE CARE..OF... UNHHHHH...
IT'S FAR TOO LATE FOR THAT, LANTERN. MY AIR DEMON HAS SUCCEEDED WHERE THE OTHERS FAILED.

...AND NOW THE GAME IS OVER.
I HAVE ALL SIX OF YOU, AND MY TASK IS NEARLY DONE.
NOW I SHALL REAP MY REWARD.
I CALL UPON THEE, NETHER GODS, TO HONOR OUR AGREEMENT! 'TIS I, FREDRIC VAUX, WHO CALLS THEE--
--AND I OFFER THEE SIX SOULS THAT HAVE LONG OPPOSED THY REIGN OF CHAOS, SOULS I HAVE READIED FOR YOUR TAKING!
THY FIRST GIFT OF POWER ENABLED ME TO KILL THE BATMAN--THIS ONE SHALL DESTROY HIS TEAMMATES--
--AND THY FINAL GIFT SHALL END THE ERA OF HEROES ON THIS GLOBE!
FOR IT IS THESE BEINGS WHO MUST BE BANISHED EVEN FROM THE MEMORY OF THIS WORLD THAT WE MIGHT HAVE PEACE!
CHAOS AND ORDER MUST BE FREE TO STRUGGLE WITHOUT THE TEMPESTUOUS INTERFERENCE OF THESE MORTALS WHO CALL THEMSELVES HEROES!
THEN CHAOS MAY RULE, WITH THY TRUSTING SERVANT AS REGENT OVER THE EARTH!
2

NOW LET THE SACRIFICE BEGIN! TAKE FROM US THESE TROUBLESOME MORTALS--
--TAKE FROM THE CITY [illegible] WHO CALL THEMSELVES HEROES, WHETHER OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OR NO--
--TAKE ALL FROM THE WORLD, USING THE SOULS OF THESE SIX AS FOCUS FOR THINE SORCERIES!
AND MOST OF ALL, TAKE EVEN FROM THE HEARTS, THE MINDS, THE MEMORIES OF THOSE WHO DWELL IN THE CITY AND THE WORLD ALL KNOWLEDGE OF THESE HEROES THAT NO MORE MIGHT EVER RISE TO TAKE THEIR PLACE.
CHAIRM
DO IT--DO IT NOW, AS I CONJURE THEE--AND THIS UNIVERSE SHALL FALL BEFORE THEE!
NO!
I SURRENDERED TO YOU BEFORE TO SAVE HELENA'S LIFE, VAUX--
--BUT FATE HAS SPENT MILLENNIA BATTLING THE ONSLAUGHT OF CHAOS--
13


--AND NO MORTAL'S LIFE IS AS IMPORTANT AS THAT BATTLE!

I AM ALREADY PROVEN YOUR MASTER, FATE- BUT I SHALL REPEAT THE LESSON IF I MUST!
THOUGH YOU SHOULD KNOW YOU CANNOT STAND ALONE AGAINST MY ELEMENTALS!


I DO NOT STAND ALONE NOW OR EVER, VAUX

BUT AS WITH ALL MAGIC THERE IS MORE TO THIS BATTLE THAN MEETS THE EYE. FOR EVEN AS THE STRUGGLE IN THE PARK BEGINS
--VAUX'S ENCHANTMENT TAKES HOLD IN THE CITY!
BATMAN DEAD!
BEGINNING WITH THE MOST RECENT HERO'S DEATH, THE CONFLAGRATION DISSIPATES THE EVIDENCE- MATERIAL AS WELL AS SPIRITUAL
BATMAN DEAD!
14

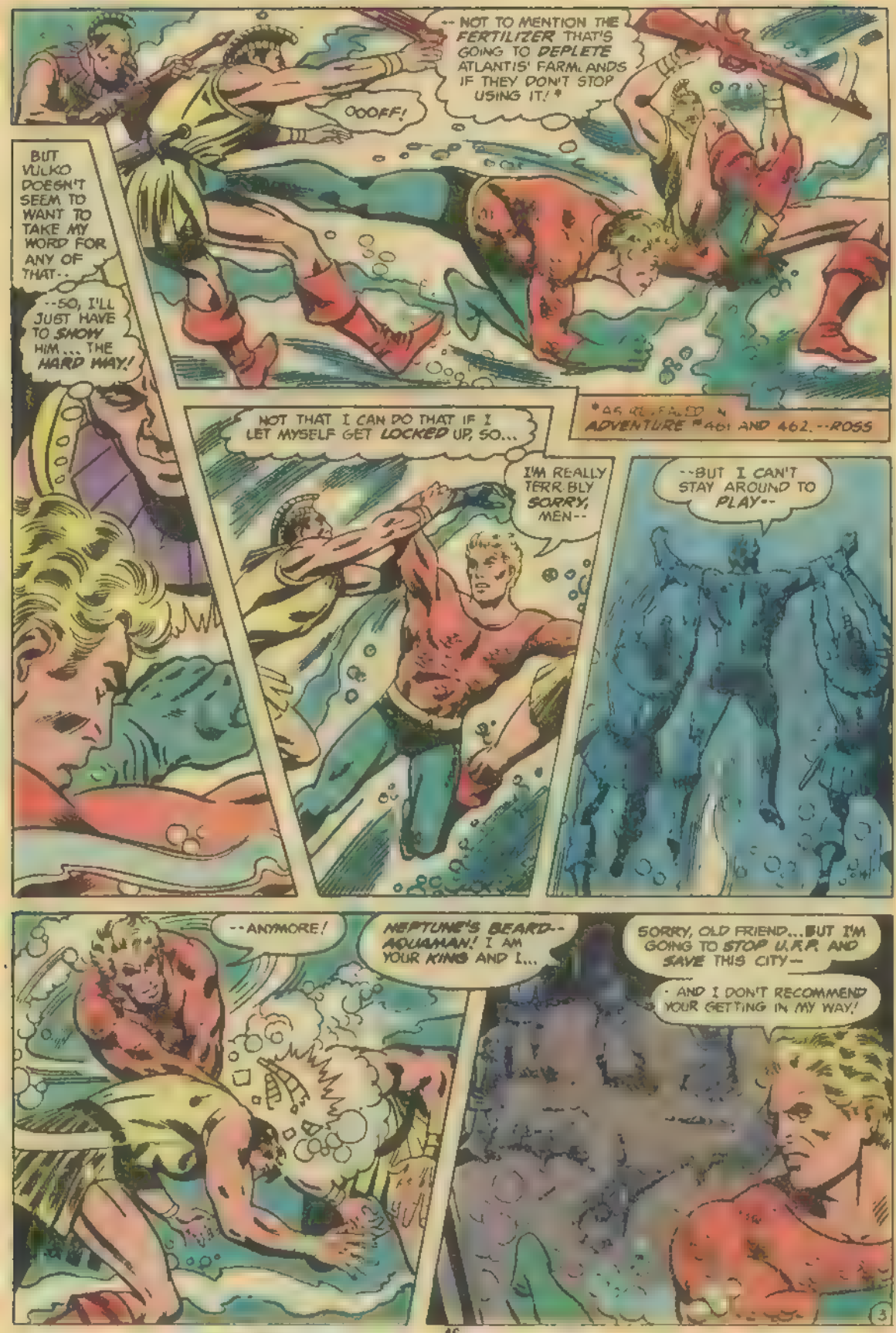
. AND MIND BY MIND, THE BATMAN IS TAKEN FROM THE CITIZENS OF GOTHAM CITY, ONE BY ONE
...THEIR MINDS BECOMING REWRITTEN PARCHMENT BEFORE THE SPELL'S POWER!
YOUR STRUGGLE IS POINTLESS, FATE--YOUR DOOM IS ALREADY DECIDED!
NOTHING IS PRE-ORDAINED, VAUX, SAVE THE ETERNAL BALANCE BETWEEN CHAOS AND ORDER--
"--A BALANCE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN, IN THE CASTING OF YOUR EVER SO-FOOLISH ENCHANTMENT!
"FOR EVEN AS WE STRUGGLE, PITTING OUR INCONSEQUENTIAL POWERS AGAINST EACH OTHER, MILLIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN HAVE JOINED THE FORCES OF ORDER!
"THEY HOLD THE MEMORY OF THEIR GUARDIAN, THE MAN WHO PROTECTED THEIR CITY FOR SO LONG!
"IT IS THEIR POWER THAT WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE--

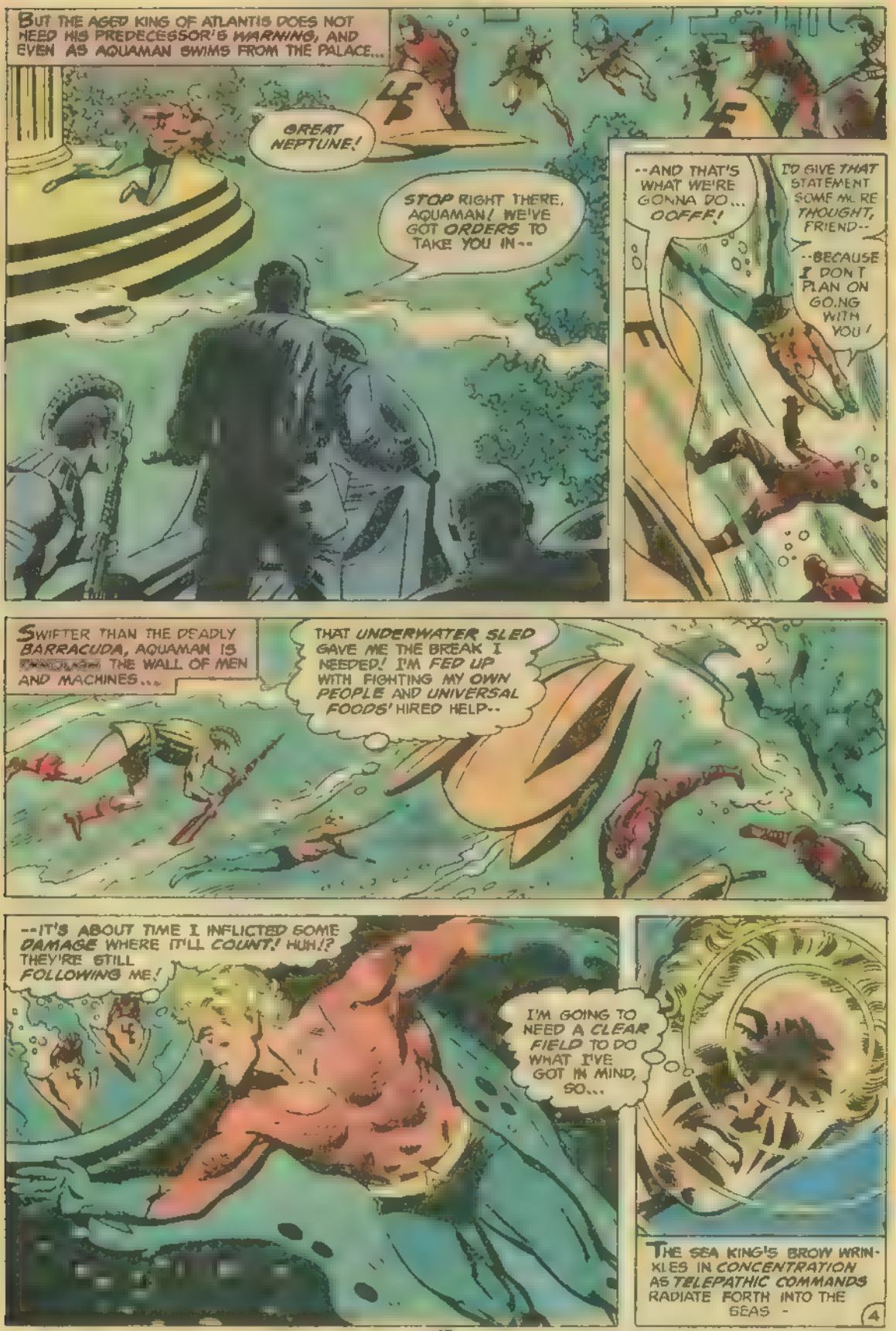
AND IN TRUTH IT IS THE BATMAN WHO STRIKES THIS LAST BLOW AGAINST YOU!
B-BUT ALL THIS MEANS THAT MY FATHER WAS KILLED FOR NO EARTHLY REASON-- NOTHING HE COULD HAVE EVER UNDERSTOOD!
HE WAS JUST KILLED AS A PAWN--
--A PAWN IN YOUR DAMNED GAME!
KWHAM
ENOUGH, HELENA...SUCH VIOLENCE IS UNNECESSARY
VAUX IS BEYOND OUR VENGEANCE NOW...
...FOR THE NETHER GODS PERMIT NO MORTAL TO FAIL THEM TWICE.
JOIN WITH ME, LANTERN-- AND LET US IMPRISON THESE ELEMENTALS--
AND THEN PERHAPS, THERE IS A LAST BIT OF GOOD THAT MAY COME FROM AMIDST THIS MISERY!
WE'VE AVENGED BRUCE'S MURDER, FATE, WHAT MORE IS IMPORTANT?
YOU AIN'T BRING HIM BACK FROM THE DEAD

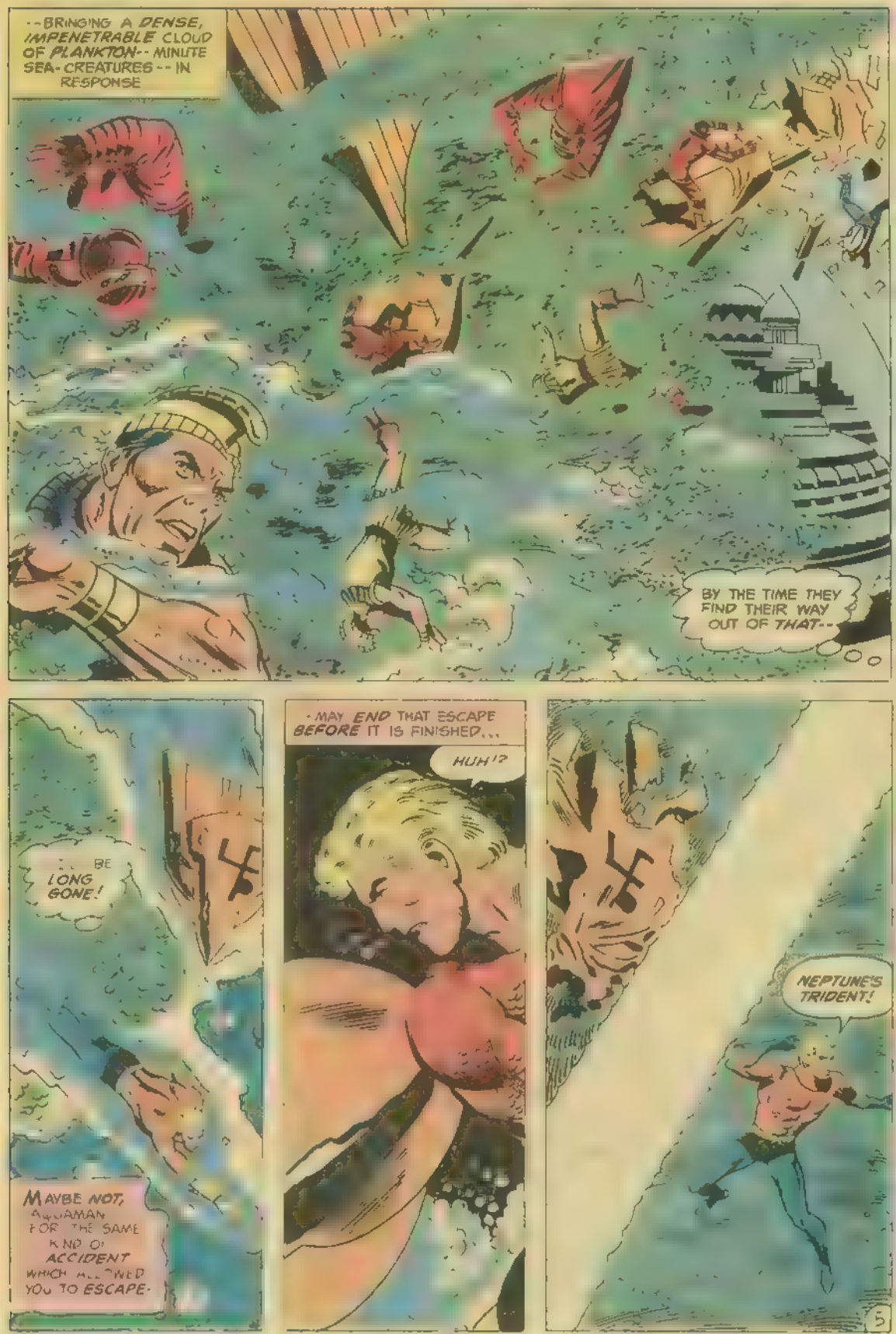
THAT IS BEYOND ANY MYSTIC POWER, DICK GRAYSON--AND CERTAINLY BEYOND WISDOM.
BUT PERHAPS THERE IS A WAY SOME OF VAUX'S WORK MAY BE SHAPED FOR THE BETTER.
THE SECRET OF THE BATMAN'S IDENTITY MAY BE RESTORED EVEN NOW!
VAUX HAS WEAKENED THE FABRIC OF REALITY WITH HIS SPELL, AND I MUST ACT TO HEAL IT.
BUT AS I DO, I SHALL MAKE THE SLIGHTEST OF ALTERATIONS.
NO LONGER SHALL PEOPLE REMEMBER THE BATMAN BEING REVEALED AS BRUCE WAYNE IN THE MOMENT OF HIS DEATH--
--NOR SHALL YOUR IDENTITIES BE KNOWN.
INSTEAD, LET THEM BELIEVE BOTH BRUCE WAYNE AND BATMAN DIED ATOP THAT GLISTENING TOWER--BUT SEPARATE DEATHS--
--WITH TWO BODIES RESTING PEACEFULLY IN SEPARATE GRAVES.
EVERY BIT OF MATERIAL EVIDENCE WILL BE ALTERED, AND ALL MEMORIES SAVE THOSE THAT KNEW THE TWO WERE ALWAYS ONE!
BRUCE WAYNE
AND THUS I CAN DO ONE LAST SERVICE TO MY OLD AND DEAR FRIEND--
--BY GIVING YOU THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY ON HIS WORK.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
THEN I'LL SAY IT, HELENA. THANKS, FATE...
...AND I'LL BET SOMEWHERE BRUCE IS SAYING THANKS TOO.
THE END

HE WAS BORN ARTHUR CURRY, HALF-BREED SON OF MAN AND MERMAID, AND ROSE TO BECOME RULER OF THE MIGHTY SEA KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS. EVENTUALLY HE RELINQUISHED THAT THRONE, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO REMAIN THE DAUNTLESS DEFENDER OF ALL THE SEVEN SEAS -- THE VALIANT SUPER-HERO CALLED...
AQUAMAN
"CLIMAX"
ONCE HE WAS KING OF THE FABLED CITY OF ATLANTIS-- BUT NOW AQUAMAN FINDS HIMSELF MAKING A STAND AGAINST THOSE HE CALLS FRIENDS--
--FOR ONLY THE SEA KING BELIEVES THE SECRET WHICH CAN SAVE THE ANCIENT
YOU HAVE STRETCHED MY PATIENCE TO THE BREAKING POINT, AQUAMAN--
-AND NOW YOU ARE UNDER ARREST! GUARDS!
PAUL KUPPERBERG'S - WRITER
DON HECK - ARTIST
JOE GIELLA - INKER
GENE D'ANGELA - COLORIST
BEN ODA - LETTERER
ROSS ANDRU - EDITOR

BLAST IT VULKO! DON'T DO THIS- DON'T MAKE ME HURT ANY OF THESE MEN!
THAT DECISION IS YOURS TO MAKE AQUAMAN SURRENDER BEFORE ANYONE IS INJURED!
AND LET YOU LOCK ME UP WHILE UNIVERSAL FOOD PRODUCTS CONTINUES DESTROYING THE CITY? NO WAY, VULKO!
EVEN IF YOU'RE WILLING TO LET U.F.P. GET AWAY WITH IT--
--I HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF STOPPING THE... HUH!?
WE HAVE BEEN FRIENDS FOR SO LONG AQUAMAN YET STILL YOU HAVE NOT LEARNED THAT I DON'T DO THINGS AS FLAMBOYANTLY AS YOU--
- BUT EVEN IN MY CAUTIOUS WAY, I DO WHAT I THINK BEST FOR ATLANTIS--
--AND I'M AFRAID ARRESTING YOU IS NECESSARY!
WE'VE BOTH GOT TO DO WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO OLD FRIEND
--AND I'VE GOT TO DO THIS!
VULKO'S FAITH IN UNIVERSAL FOODS IS BLINDING HIM TO THE TRUTH--NAMELY THE ATOMIC GENERATOR THAT'S HEATING THE SEAS TO AN UNLIVABLE LEVEL--
KRUNK
UFHNN!
2


-- NOT TO MENTION THE FERTILIZER THAT'S GOING TO DEPLETE ATLANTIS' FARMLANDS IF THEY DON'T STOP USING IT!*
OOOFF!
BUT VULKO DOESN'T SEEM TO WANT TO TAKE MY WORD FOR ANY OF THAT--
--SO, I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOW HIM... THE HARD WAY!
*AS RELATED IN ADVENTURE #461 AND 462.--ROSS
NOT THAT I CAN DO THAT IF I LET MYSELF GET LOCKED UP, SO...
I'M REALLY TERRIBLY SORRY, MEN--
--BUT I CAN'T STAY AROUND TO PLAY--
--ANYMORE!
NEPTUNE'S BEARD-- AQUAMAN! I AM YOUR KING AND I...
SORRY, OLD FRIEND...BUT I'M GOING TO STOP U.R.P. AND SAVE THIS CITY--
AND I DON'T RECOMMEND YOUR GETTING IN MY WAY!
3

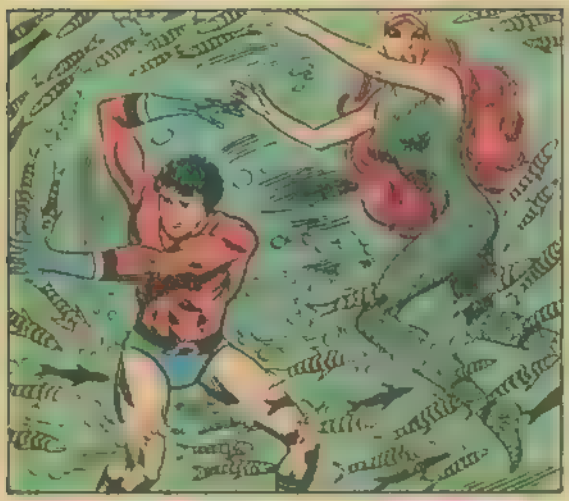

BUT THE AGED KING OF ATLANTIS DOES NOT HEED HIS PREDECESSOR'S WARNING, AND EVEN AS AQUAMAN SWIMS FROM THE PALACE...
GREAT NEPTUNE!
STOP RIGHT THERE, AQUAMAN! WE'VE GOT ORDERS TO TAKE YOU IN--
--AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO... OOFF!
I'D GIVE THAT STATEMENT SOME MORE THOUGHT, FRIEND--
--BECAUSE I DON'T PLAN ON GOING WITH YOU!
SWIFTER THAN THE DEADLY BARRACUDA, AQUAMAN IS THROUGH THE WALL OF MEN AND MACHINES...
THAT UNDERWATER SLED GAVE ME THE BREAK I NEEDED! I'M FED UP WITH FIGHTING MY OWN PEOPLE AND UNIVERSAL FOODS' HIRED HELP--
--IT'S ABOUT TIME I INFLICTED SOME DAMAGE WHERE IT'LL COUNT! HUH!? THEY'RE STILL FOLLOWING ME!
I'M GOING TO NEED A CLEAR FIELD TO DO WHAT I'VE GOT IN MIND, SO...
THE SEA KING'S BROW WRINKLES IN CONCENTRATION AS TELEPATHIC COMMANDS RADIATE FORTH INTO THE SEAS -
4

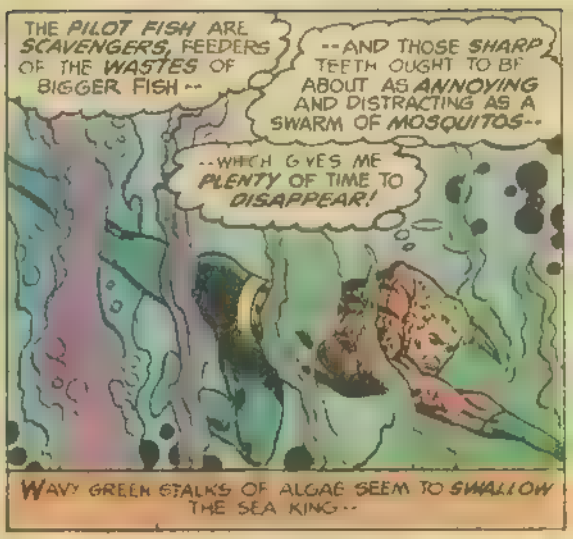

--BRINGING A DENSE, IMPENETRABLE CLOUD OF PLANKTON-- MINUTE SEA-CREATURES -- IN RESPONSE
BY THE TIME THEY FIND THEIR WAY OUT OF THAT--
BE LONG GONE!
MAYBE NOT, AQUAMAN FOR THE SAME KIND OF ACCIDENT WHICH ALLOWED YOU TO ESCAPE-
-MAY END THAT ESCAPE BEFORE IT IS FINISHED...
HUH!?
NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT!
5

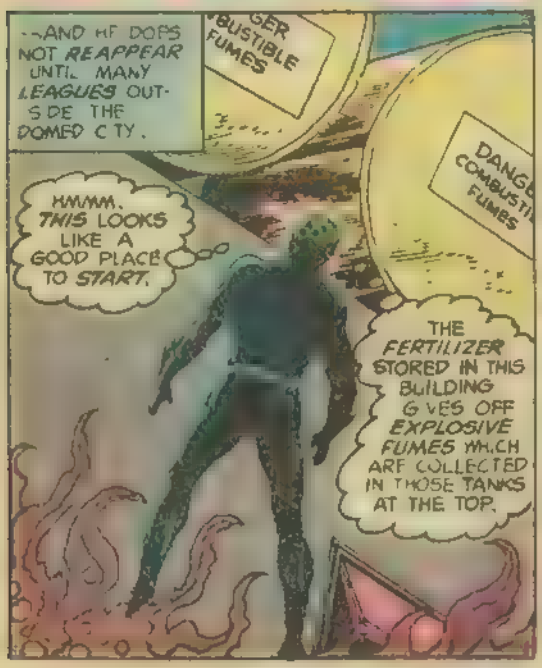
NO NOT DIVINE INTERVENTION, HUSBAND... MERELY MY HARD-WATER POWERS
MERA! I JUST KNEW YOU'D COME AROUND TO MY SIDE, WIFE!
BUT I HAVE NOT, HUSBAND..
--AND THOUGH I CANNOT ALLOW UNIVERSAL FOODS TO DO YOU ANY HARM, I HAVE GIVEN MY WORD TO VULKO--
--THAT I WILL STOP YOU FROM [redacted] ATLANTIS' PLANS FOR THE FUTURE!
D-DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, MERA...?
YES, AQUAMAN, I DO! BUT IT IS USELESS FOR I KNOW YOU WELL. YOUR STUBBORNESS WILL NEVER ALLOW YOU TO DROP THE MATTER -
- EVEN THOUGH, THIS TIME, YOU ARE WRONG!
I'M SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY, MERA
DO NOT MAKE ME DO THIS, HUSBAND, I BEG YOU!
IT SEEMS WE'VE ALL GOT REGRETS OVER OUR ACTIONS THESE DAYS, MERA .. YOU, ME, VULKO .. ALL OF US--
BUT STILL WE DO WHAT OUR CONSCIENCES TELL US. I'M SORRY, DARLING.
WITH THOSE WORDS, WIFE RAISES HER HAND AGAINST HUSBAND, BUT BEFORE HER OTHER-DIMENSIONAL HARD-WATER POWERS CAN BE USED..
LET'S STOP IT RIGHT HERE, PARTNER-- AND I MEAN NOW!
BLAST IT, AQUALAD-- DID VULKO SEND YOU TO STOP ME TOO?
THIS WAS ALL MY IDEA, AQUAMAN. I COULDN'T LET YOU LEAVE BEFORE I SPOKE MY PIECE!
I'M THROUGH TALKING, KID...
6

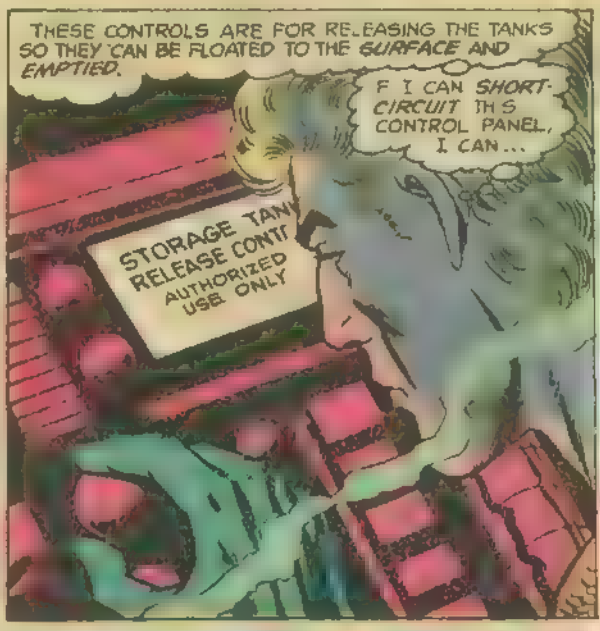
THAT'S RIGHT, 'CAUSE NOW YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOME LISTENING FOR A CHANGE!
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER A LOT OF YEARS, FRIEND - BUT YOU'RE STILL TREATING ME LIKE A GREEN KID
LIKE I WOULDN'T KNOW A TRUTH IF IT STEPPED ON ME!
WELL DIG THIS TRUTH PARTNER ... YOU'RE NOT KING AROUND HERE ANYMORE! AND THE MAN WHO IS IS DOING THE BEST THING FOR THIS CITY--
- EVEN IF YOU'RE TOO PIGHEADED TO SEE THAT!
YOU'RE THE SECOND PERSON WHO'S CALLED ME THAT MINNOW--
--AND I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT!
I'M WARNING YOU, AQUAMAN! I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DO THIS!
I DOUBT IF YOU CAN STOP ME, MINNOW
MAYBE NOT ALONE, AQUAMAN
BUT HE'S NOT ALONE HUSBAND!
MERA-- EVEN YOU MERA?
THE SEA KING HEARS THOSE DEEP CUTTING WORDS AND THEY MAKE HIM PAUSE FOR BUT A MOMENT.
BUT THAT MOMENT IS TIME ENOUGH!
SORRY PARTNER, BUT VULKO'S ORDERED YOU ARRESTED UNTIL YOU COOL OFF.
UNNNHH!!
CRUMP!
NOTHING WILL BE ABLE TO COOL IN ATLANTIS UNLESS SOMEONE SHUTS DOWN U.F.P.'S ATOMIC POWER PLANTS, MINNOW

AND YOU'RE THE APPOINTED SOMEONE, I SUPPOSE?
LIKE I SAID, IT'S GOT TO BE DONE--
--AND, BY NEPTUNE, IT WILL BE DONE!
IT BEGINS, NOW, A TERRIBLE CONTEST BETWEEN FRIENDS--
--A CONTEST FOUGHT WITH HANDS THE COMBATANTS WOULD RATHER NEVER BE RAISED AGAINST ONE ANOTHER -
--AND HEARTS WHICH FEEL EACH BLOW MORE PAINFULLY THAN FLESH!
STOP IT, AQUALAD! I-I CAN'T FIGHT YOU LIKE THIS!
YOU STARTED THIS, AQUAMAN ..AND IF YOU CAN'T FINISH IT AS WELL, THEN THAT'S
--TOUGH!
FWAP!
UGH! I DID A GOOD JOB TEACHING THAT BOY... MAYBE TOO GOOD!
THE ONLY WAY TO GET AWAY WITHOUT HURTING HIM AND MERA
--IS TO CREATE A HARMLESS DIVERSION!
HUH!? WHAT'RE THOSE PILOT FISH...?
8




THE PILOT FISH ARE SCAVENGERS, FEEDERS OF THE WASTES OF BIGGER FISH--
--AND THOSE SHARP TEETH OUGHT TO BE ABOUT AS ANNOYING AND DISTRACTING AS A SWARM OF MOSQUITOS--
--WHICH GIVES ME PLENTY OF TIME TO DISAPPEAR!
WAVY GREEN STALKS OF ALGAE SEEM TO SWALLOW THE SEA KING--


--AND HE DOES NOT REAPPEAR UNTIL MANY LEAGUES OUTSIDE THE DOMED CITY.
GER BUSTIBLE FUMES
DANGE COMBUSTI FUMES
HMMM. THIS LOOKS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO START.
THE FERTILIZER STORED IN THIS BUILDING GIVES OFF EXPLOSIVE FUMES WHICH ARE COLLECTED IN THOSE TANKS AT THE TOP.

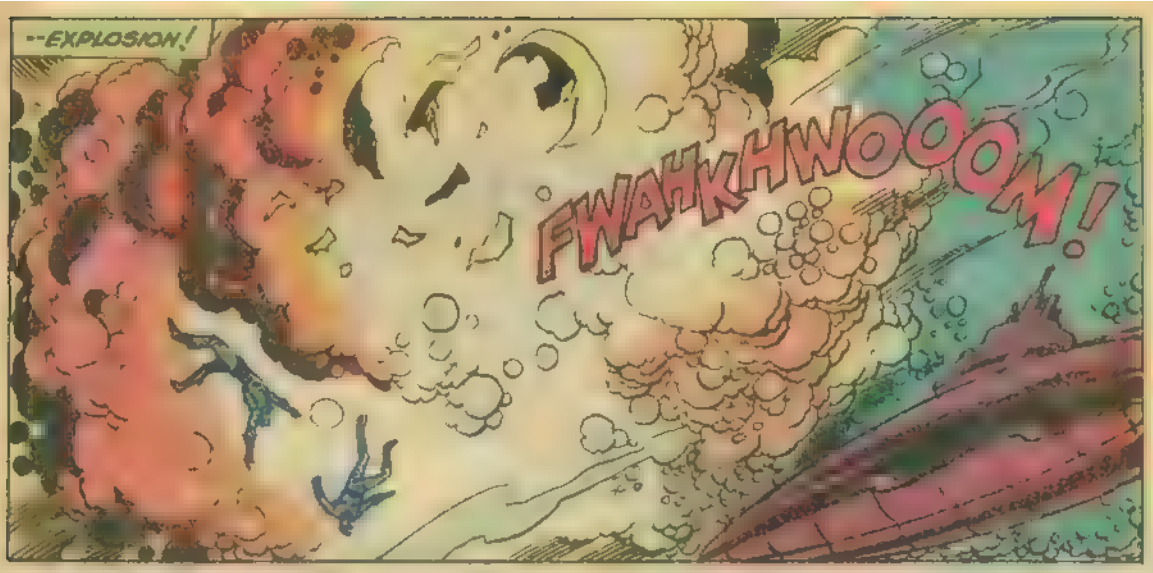

THESE CONTROLS ARE FOR RELEASING THE TANKS SO THEY CAN BE FLOATED TO THE SURFACE AND EMPTIED.
IF I CAN SHORT-CIRCUIT THIS CONTROL PANEL, I CAN...
STORAGE TANK RELEASE CONTROL AUTHORIZED USE ONLY

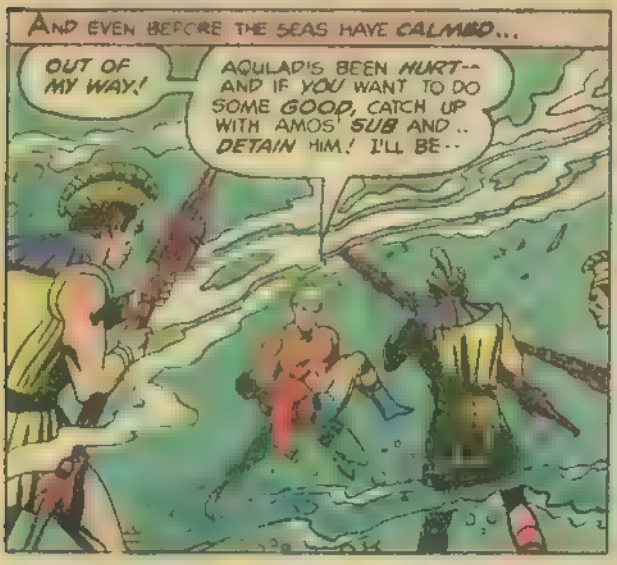
I WOULDN'T DO THAT, AQUAMAN--
HUH!? WHO...!?

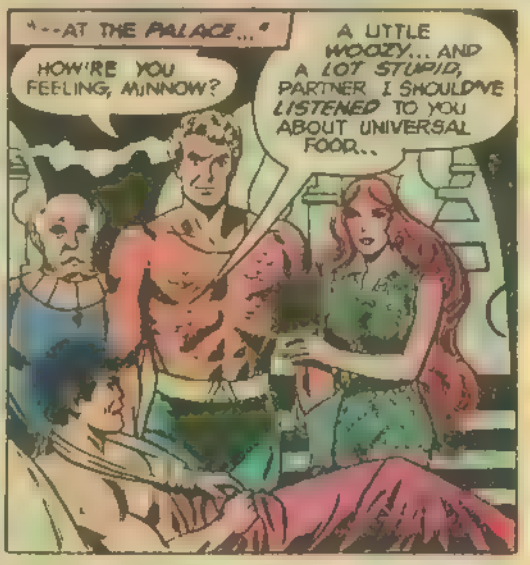
--NOT IF YOU VALUE THE LIVES OF YOUR FELLOW ATLANTEANS!
YOUR VOICE... YOU'RE--

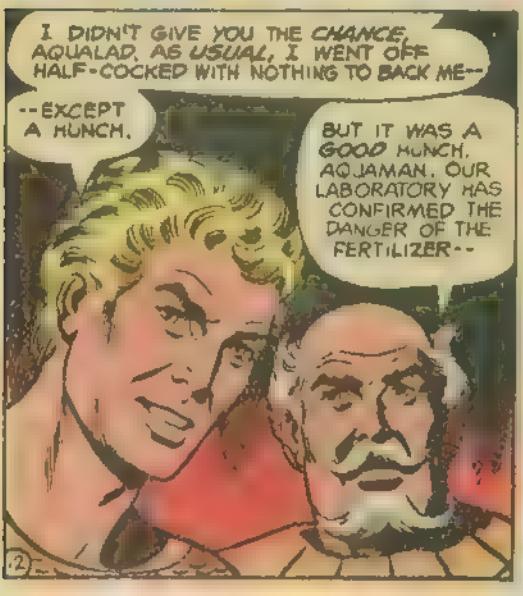
MR. AMOS HEAD OF UNIVERSAL FOODS!
CORRECT, SEA KING -- AND AS PRESIDENT OF U.F.F. IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO SAFEGUARD THIS PROPERTY FROM VANDALS!
--AND GET IN SOME GOOD OLD-FASHIONED EAVESDROPPING!
YOU WERE QUITE CORRECT IN YOUR SUSPICIONS, AQUAMAN BUT YOUR STUMBLING ONTO THE TRUTH JUST MEANS I'LL HAVE TO CANCEL THE CONTRACT WITH ATLANTIS SOONER THAN I HAD PLANNED.
THEREFORE I WILL BE COMPLETELY WITHIN MY RIGHTS WHEN I BLAST YOU AND ATLANTIS TO PIECES.
--AND AN "ACCIDENTAL" NUCLEAR REACTOR EXPLOSION WILL NEATLY OBLITERATE THE EVIDENCE...
..IN CASE THERE'S ANY QUESTION OF MY RIGHTS LATER ON.
5. INTENT ARE THE TWO MEN BELOW THAT THEY DO NOT NOTICE THE SLIGHT DISTURBANCE OF THE WATERS ABOVE
WHEW! I'LL REMEMBER NEVER TO ARGUE WITH SHARP-TOOTHED LITTLE FISH AGAIN! LUCKY I GOT AWAY IN TIME TO TAIL AQUAMAN --
IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN, AMOS -- THE WAY I FIGURE IT, I CAN BLOW THIS TANK -- AND SEVERAL LEAGUES OF CROPS AND EQUIPMENT --
--AND BE AWAY, ROUNDING UP YOUR THUGS WITH THE HELP OF MY FISH BEFORE YOU CAN GET TO YOUR RADIO!
SO GET READY TO GET AWAY FROM HERE -- REAL QUICK!
AQUAMAN TURNS SWIFTLY, AND WITH A SINGLE POWERFUL PULL --
10

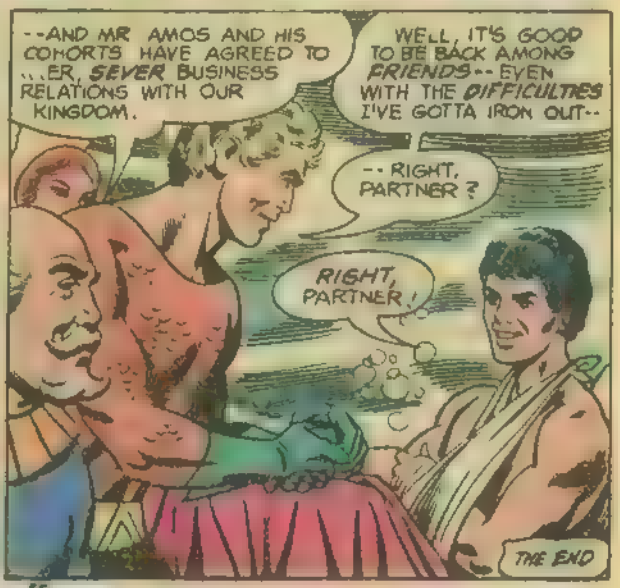
--ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!
GREAT NEPTUNE!
FWHPTFF!
THROUGHOUT A COMPLEX MAZE OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS CIRCUITS OVERLOAD AND EMERGENCY CONTROLS SNAP AUTOMATICALLY ON--
--BUT A SECOND TOO LATE...
AQUAMAN!
MINNOW!
H-HE'S CAUGHT ON THE TANK... AND THE WAY THE ELECTRICAL CONTROLS ARE SHORT-CIRCUITING, IT COULD EXPLODE...
CAPTAIN... GET US OUT OF HERE... FULL SPEED AHEAD-- B BEFORE THAT MANIAC GETS US ALL KILLED!
STAY LOOSE, KID... I'M ON MY WAY!
AS IF THEIR BATTLE OF MOMENTS AGO HAD NEVER HAPPENED, AQUAMAN LEAPS TO THE AID OF THE YOUNG MAN WHO FOR YEARS HE HAS CALLED FRIEND.
AND WERE IT NOT FOR THE SEA KING'S SPEED THROUGH THE OCEAN DEEP THAT FRIEND WOULD BE CAUGHT IN THE IMMINENT, DEADLY--
11


--EXPLOSION!
FWAHKHWOOOM!


AND EVEN BEFORE THE SEAS HAVE CALMED...
OUT OF MY WAY!
AQUAD'S BEEN HURT-- AND IF YOU WANT TO DO SOME GOOD, CATCH UP WITH AMOS' SUB AND .. DETAIN HIM! I'LL BE--

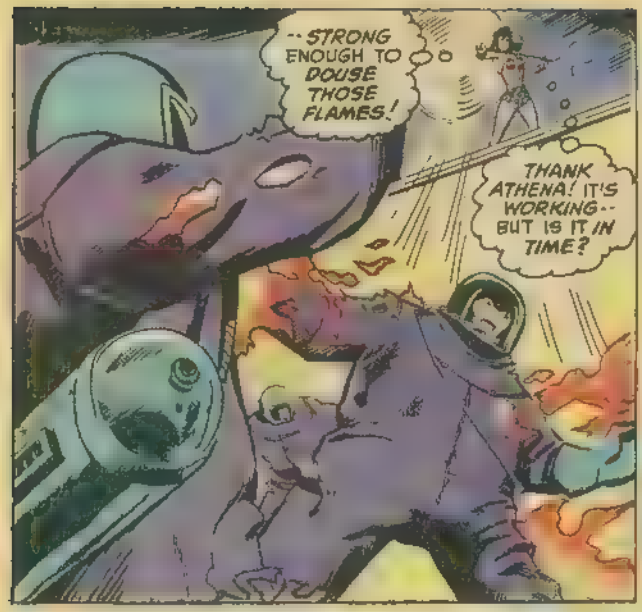

"--AT THE PALACE..."
HOW'RE YOU FEELING, MINNOW?
A UTTLE WOOZY... AND A LOT STUPID, PARTNER I SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO YOU ABOUT UNIVERSAL FOOD..

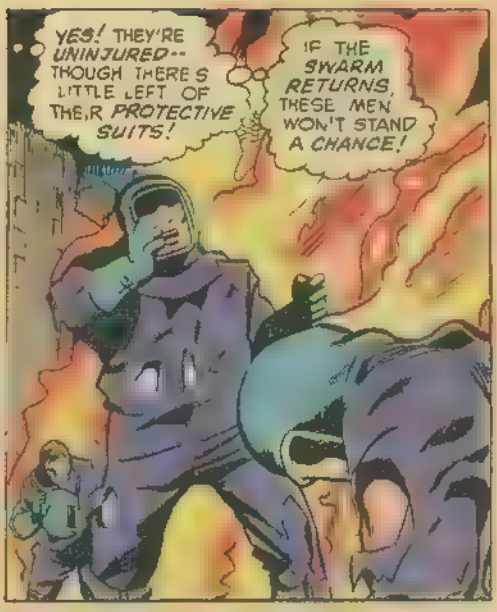

I DIDN'T GIVE YOU THE CHANCE, AQUALAD, AS USUAL, I WENT OFF HALF-COCKED WITH NOTHING TO BACK ME--
--EXCEPT A HUNCH.
BUT IT WAS A GOOD HUNCH, AQUAMAN. OUR LABORATORY HAS CONFIRMED THE DANGER OF THE FERTILIZER--
2

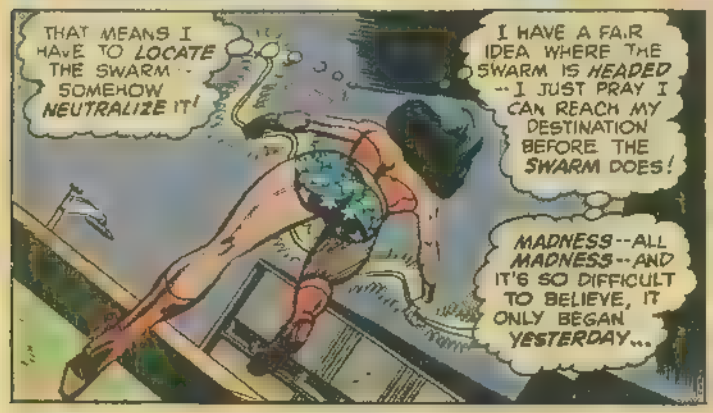

--AND MR AMOS AND HIS COHORTS HAVE AGREED TO ...ER, SEVER BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH OUR KINGDOM.
WELL, IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK AMONG FRIENDS-- EVEN WITH THE DIFFICULTIES I'VE GOTTA IRON OUT--
--RIGHT, PARTNER?
RIGHT, PARTNER!
THE END

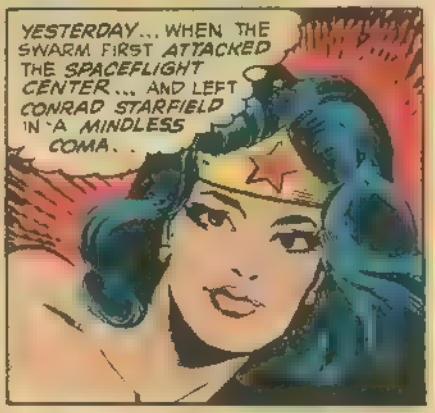
GRANTED THE WISDOM OF ATHENA, THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES, THE SPEED OF MERCURY AND THE BEAUTY OF APHRODITE BY THE GODS, PRINCESS DIANA OF PARADISE ISLAND RENOUNCED HER IMMORTALITY AND ENTERED MANS WORLD AS THE MOST LEGENDARY AMAZON OF ALL...
HOUSTON ASTRONAUTICS TRAINING PROGRAM
NASA BUILDING ONE
THE NIGHTS IN HOUSTON ARE COOL AND DRY, THOUGH FOR MOST OF THE TRAINEES AT THE SPACEFLIGHT CENTER, THAT KNOWLEDGE IS SECOND-HAND...
MOST OF THE TRAINEES ARE TOO EXHAUSTED AFTER A DAY'S PACKED SCHEDULE TO DO ANYTHING MORE AT NIGHT THAN SLEEP..
ONE TRAINEE IS AN EXCEPTION TO THAT UNSPOKEN RULE HOWEVER AND TONIGHT SHE PROWLS THE SHADOWED STREETS OF THE CENTER DRIVEN TO FIND ANSWERS TO A DEADLY PUZZLE...
THE BEES-- JUST AS I EXPECTED, THEY'RE HERE!
GERRY CONWAY - WRITER
JOE STATON - PENCILLER
FRANK McLAUGHLIN - INKER
THE PUZZLE? KEEP READING, FRIEND, AND YOU'LL SOON SEE...
THE INSANITY SWARM
BEN ODA - LETTERER
JERRY SERPE - COLORIST
ROSS ANDRU - EDITOR

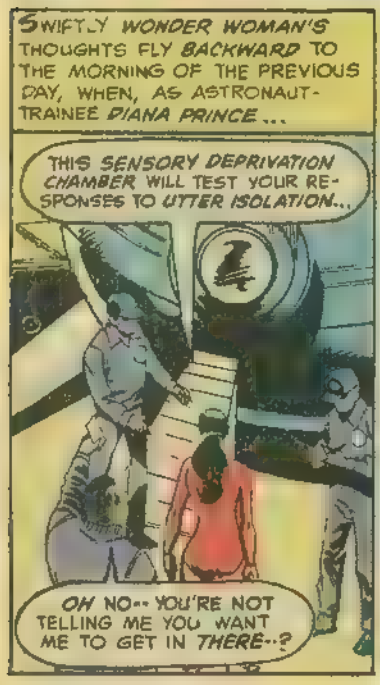
WHAT'S THAT SOUND-- BARELY CAN HEAR IT THROUGH THIS HELMET! LIKE A BUZZING--?
SWEET SAINTS, IT'S THE BEES!
BURN THEM! BURN THOSE SUCKERS!
SIR...AM I SEEING THINGS, OR ARE THOSE INSECTS DELIBERATELY SWOOPING OVER OUR THROWERS?
IT'S--IT'S LIKE THEY'RE INTELLIGENT!
WATCH IT, BOTH OF YOU! DON'T YOU SEE WHAT THEY'RE DOING?
NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO WARN THOSE MEN-- AND NOW THEY'LL BE INCINERATED, UNLESS I CAN SAVE THEM!
THAT OFFICER WAS RIGHT! THOSE BEES ARE INTELLIGENT!
YAAAAHHH
THEY'RE LEADING US-- MAKING US TURN OUR THROWERS--
--ON EACH OTHER!
THIS CONFIRMS WHAT I ALREADY SUSPECTED-- BUT BEFORE I CAN ACT ON MY SUSPICIONS, I HAVE TO HELP THOSE MEN!
MERCIFUL MINERVA, GUIDE MY HAND! LET ME SPIN MY MAGIC LASSO LIKE A LARIAT -- BUILD UP A POWERFUL WIND--
--AND THAT MAKES THEM EVEN MORE DEADLY THAN A NATURAL SWARM!
2

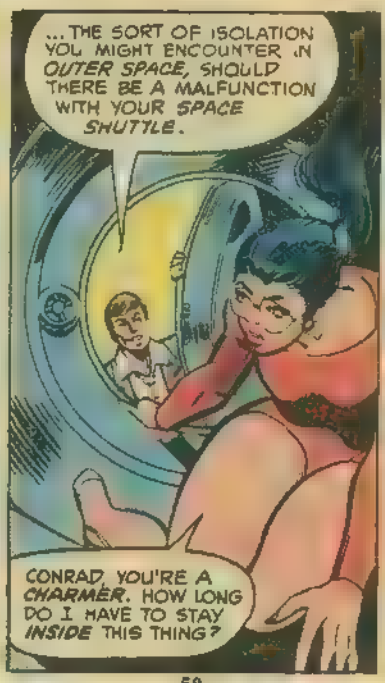

--STRONG ENOUGH TO DOUSE THOSE FLAMES!
THANK ATHENA! IT'S WORKING--BUT IS IT IN TIME?


YES! THEY'RE UNINJURED--THOUGH THERE'S LITTLE LEFT OF THEIR PROTECTIVE SUITS!
IF THE SWARM RETURNS, THESE MEN WON'T STAND A CHANCE!


THAT MEANS I HAVE TO LOCATE THE SWARM--SOMEHOW NEUTRALIZE IT!
I HAVE A FAIR IDEA WHERE THE SWARM IS HEADED--I JUST PRAY I CAN REACH MY DESTINATION BEFORE THE SWARM DOES!
MADNESS--ALL MADNESS--AND IT'S SO DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE, IT ONLY BEGAN YESTERDAY...

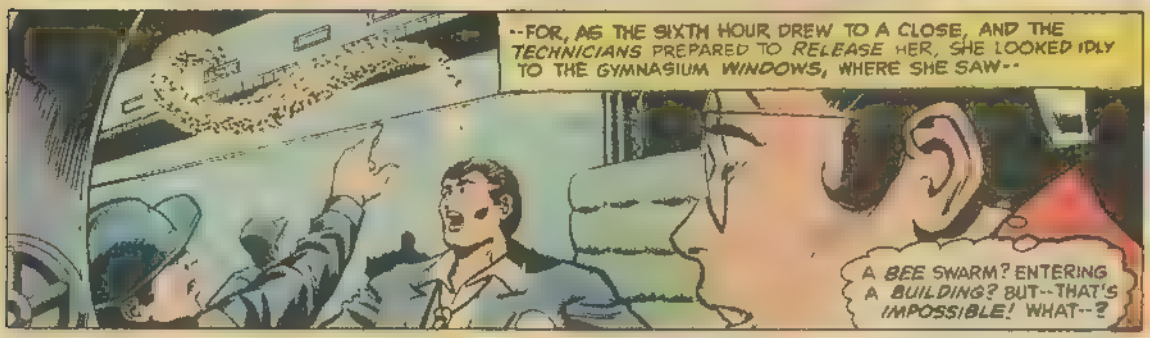

YESTERDAY... WHEN THE SWARM FIRST ATTACKED THE SPACEFLIGHT CENTER... AND LEFT CONRAD STARFIELD IN A MINDLESS COMA...

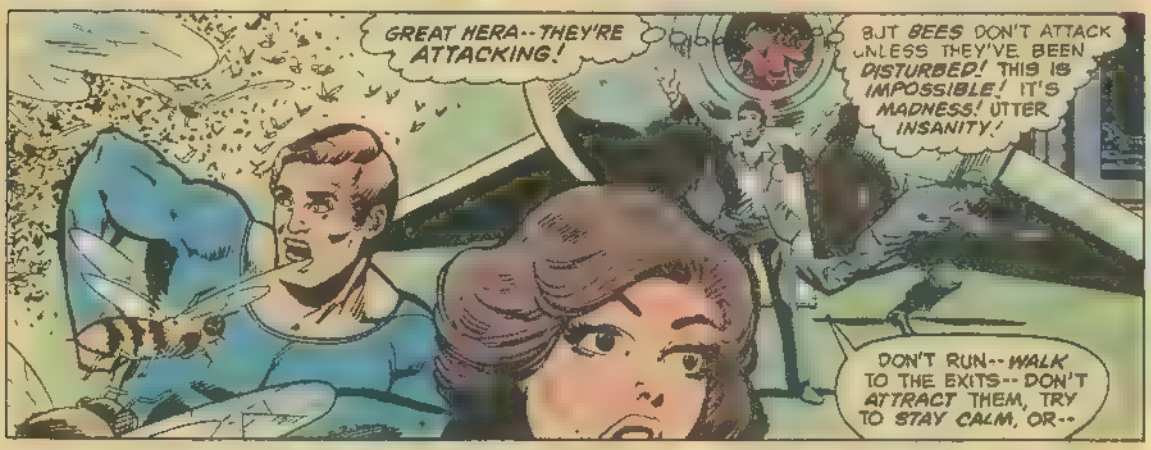

SWIFTLY WONDER WOMAN'S THOUGHTS FLY BACKWARD TO THE MORNING OF THE PREVIOUS DAY, WHEN, AS ASTRONAUT-TRAINEE DIANA PRINCE...
THIS SENSORY DEPRIVATION CHAMBER WILL TEST YOUR RESPONSES TO UTTER ISOLATION...
OH NO--YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME YOU WANT ME TO GET IN THERE--?

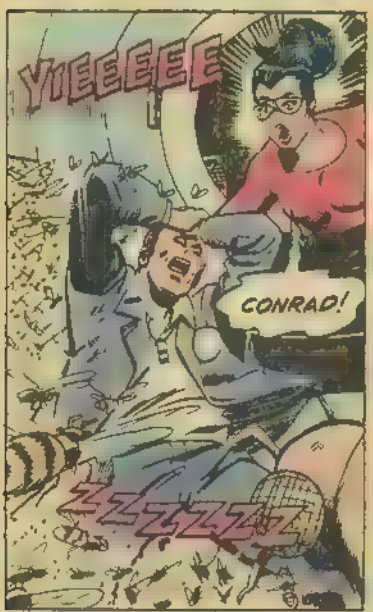

...THE SORT OF ISOLATION YOU MIGHT ENCOUNTER IN OUTER SPACE, SHOULD THERE BE A MALFUNCTION WITH YOUR SPACE SHUTTLE.
CONRAD, YOU'RE A CHARMER. HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO STAY INSIDE THIS THING?

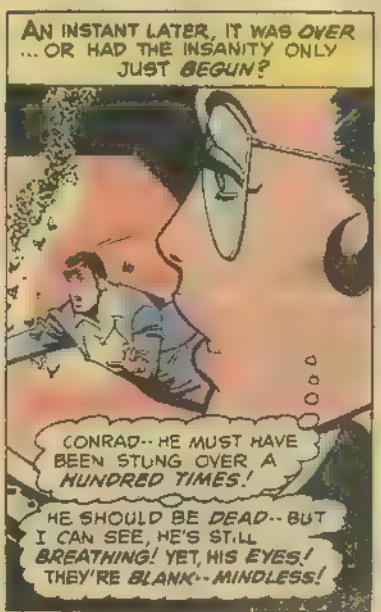
LONG ENOUGH, MISS PRINCE. LONG ENOUGH.
SPEEDING NOW ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS, THE AMAZON RECALLS THE TEST WITH A GRIMACE, SIX HOURS SHE SPENT INSIDE THAT COLD GRAY GLOBE..
3

SIX HOURS OF HER LIFE, WASTED FOR A TEST THAT WAS APPARENTLY WITHOUT PURPOSE..
ONLY NOW DOES SHE REALIZE THAT THE "PURPOSELESS" TEST PROBABLY SAVED HER MIND--


--FOR, AS THE SIXTH HOUR DREW TO A CLOSE, AND THE TECHNICIANS PREPARED TO RELEASE HER, SHE LOOKED IDLY TO THE GYMNASIUM WINDOWS, WHERE SHE SAW--
A BEE SWARM? ENTERING A BUILDING? BUT--THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WHAT--?


GREAT HERA--THEY'RE ATTACKING!
BUT BEES DON'T ATTACK UNLESS THEY'VE BEEN DISTURBED! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S MADNESS! UTTER INSANITY!
DON'T RUN--WALK TO THE EXITS--DON'T ATTRACT THEM, TRY TO STAY CALM, OR--


YIEEEEE
CONRAD!
ZZZZZZZZ

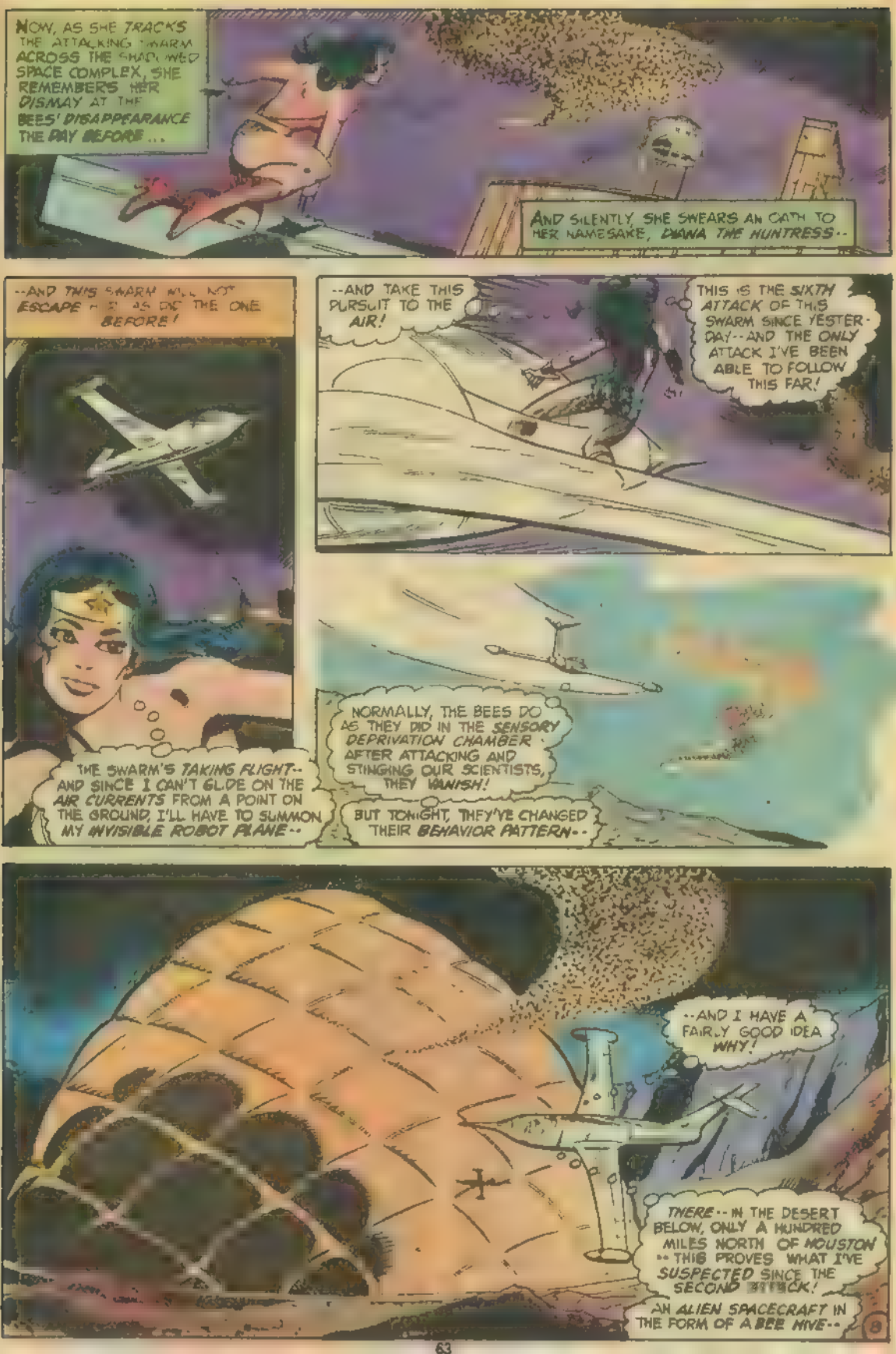

AN INSTANT LATER, IT WAS OVER ...OR HAD THE INSANITY ONLY JUST BEGUN?
CONRAD--HE MUST HAVE BEEN STUNG OVER A HUNDRED TIMES!
HE SHOULD BE DEAD--BUT I CAN SEE, HE'S STILL BREATHING! YET, HIS EYES! THEY'RE BLANK--MINDLESS!

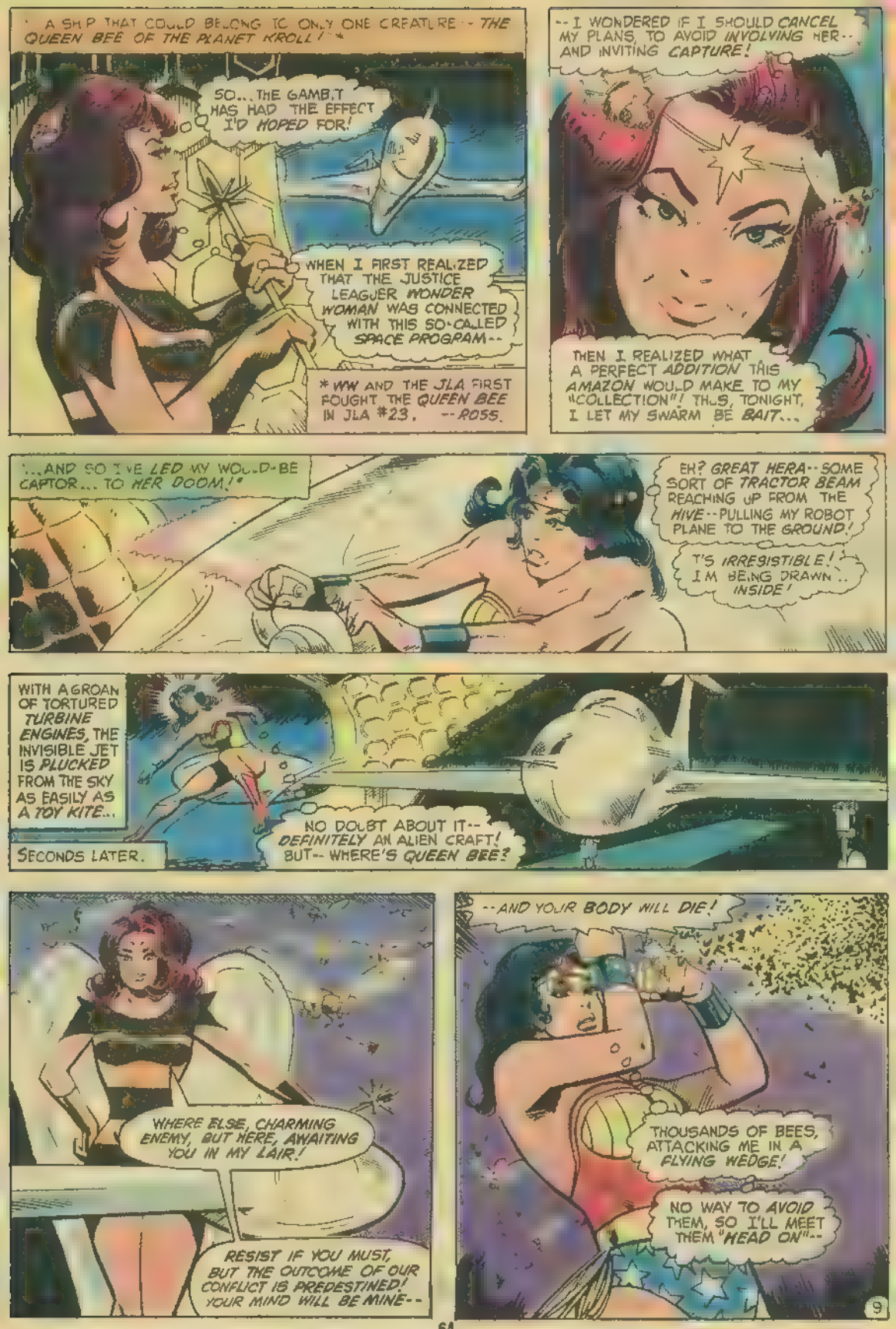
KNIGHT
WHAT DID THOSE BEES DO TO H.M?
WHAT DID THEY DO?
4

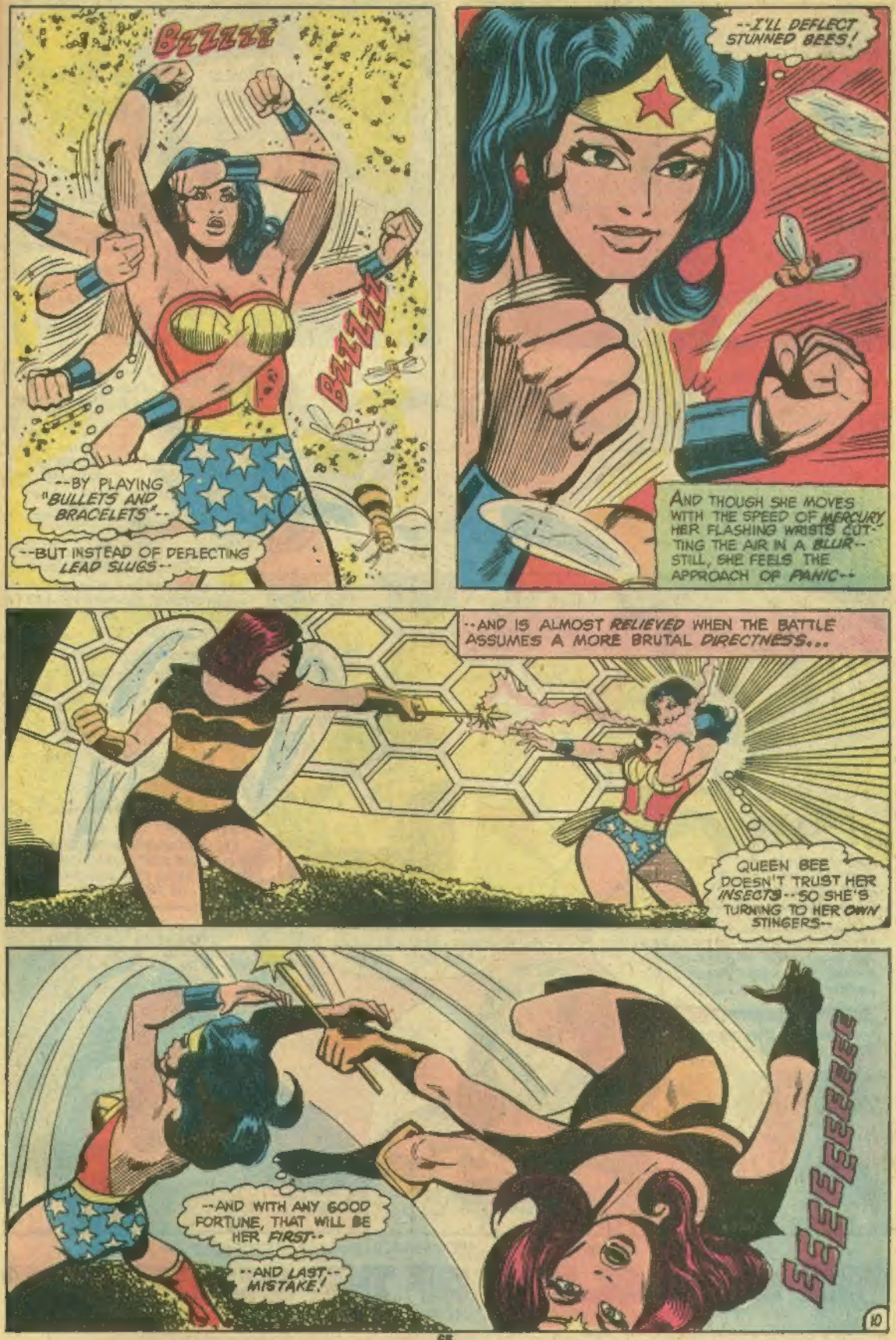
A SCREECH OF TORTURED METAL--A SUDDEN, BRITTLE SNAP, AND--
THE BEES ARE GONE...BUT CONRAD, AND THE OTHERS...
PULSE ABNORMALLY SLOW BLOOD-PRESSURE NORMAL... BREATHING STRAINED, BUT REGULAR...!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM ALL? COULD BEE STINGS--DO THIS?
...AND INSTEAD OF PRODUCING PARALYSIS OR DEATH, THE BEES' STINGS HAVE INSTEAD CREATED A CONDITION OF COMA IN THE FOURTEEN VICTIMS WE'VE DISCOVERED SO FAR.
APPARENTLY, THE BEE VENOM [illegible] THE NORMAL SYNAPTIC FLOW IN THE BRAIN--
--REDUCING OUR COLLEAGUES TO LITTLE MORE THAN HUMAN VEGETABLES.
UNLESS WE CAN DISCOVER AN ANTIDOTE TO THIS NEW KIND OF VENOM, OUR FRIENDS WILL REMAIN IN A COMATOSE STATE--UNTIL THEY DIE.
PROFESSOR STONE... WHAT ABOUT THE SWARM? SURELY, IF SOME OF THE BEES WERE TO BE CAPTURED FOR STUDY--
AN EXCELLENT NOTION, MS. PRINCE--UNFORTUNATELY, [illegible]
AFTER ATTACKING OUR BASE THIS AFTERNOON, THE BEE SWARM APPARENTLY VANISHED FROM ALL RADAR SCREENS.
BZZZZ
THE BEES! THE BEES!
WE CAN ONLY HOPE THIS WAS AN ISOLATED ATTACK, ONE THAT WON'T BE REPEATED, IF ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF--DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN!

THERE IS AN ELEMENTAL TERROR TO AN ATTACK BY BEES -- A TERROR THAT CAN SWEEP AWAY THE SOPHISTICATED VENEER OF SCIENCE--
--LEAVING ONLY A HORDE OF PANICKED PRIMITIVES FLEEING MADLY BEFORE THE STINGING SWARM! AND, AMONG, THOSE FLEEING MEN AND WOMEN -
DIANA! FOR GOD'S SAKE, DON'T RUN THAT WAY - YOU'LL BE TRAPPED!
SHE CAN'T HEAR YOU, BILL! SHE'S LOST--BUT WE'VE GOT TO SAVE OURSELVES!
HURRY--OH, PLEASE, PLEASE--HURRY!
TOO LATE, THE YOUNG ASTRONAUT TRAINEES REALIZED THAT THEIR EXIT WAS BLOCKED--
- AND EVEN AS THEY TRIED TO SPIN ASIDE HEADING FOR ANOTHER DOOR--
THE SWARM DESCENDED ON THEM, LIKE AN ANGRY BLACK CLOUD!
SIMULTANEOUSLY, FROM THE SHADOWS AT THE REAR OF THE FILING CABINETS WHERE AN APPARENTLY-PANICKED DIANA PRINCE DISAPPEARED ONLY MOMENTS BEFORE--
BILL AND STACY AND THE OTHERS DON'T STAND A CHANCE--
--UNLESS, IF I CAN SOMEHOW MIMIC THE "MATING CALL" OF A QUEEN BEE, BY TWIRLING MY LASSO AT THE PROPER VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCY--!
ATHENA BE PRAISED! IT'S WORKING!
HMMMM
BEES CAN'T "HEAR"-- BUT THEY CAN SENSE THE VIBRATING PATTERN OF MY LASSO-- AND THEY'LL FOLLOW IT, AS THOUGH HYPNOTIZED!
BUT- FOLLOW IT WHERE?
6

WHERE CAN I TRAP THEM SO THEY CAN'T STING ANY MORE INNOCENTS?
HMMMMM
IF ONLY THERE WERE A FREEZER SOMEWHERE ON THE BASE · EH?
KRAK
I HAVE IT-- THE PERFECT CAGE!
HMMMMM
IT'S AIRTIGHT-- DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN ITS STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY FROM THE INSIDE OUT--AND ITS HATCH WAS JUST REPAIRED AN HOUR AGO!
GOOD-- THE OTHER BEES AROUND THE BASE ARE FOLLOWING ME BLINDLY--
HMMMM
--NOW IF THEY'LL ONLY CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE LASSO'S VIBRATION PATTERN--
--WHEN I PIPE IT INTO THE SENSORY DEPRIVATION CHAMBER, THROUGH THE SPECIAL SOUND SYSTEM INSIDE THE AIRLOCK!
HMMMMMM
NORMALLY THESE MICROPHONES ARE HERE FOR USE BY MISSION SCIENTISTS--
--BUT TODAY, THEY'VE SERVED ANOTHER PURPOSE-- AS A LURE FOR A BEE SWARM!
DONE! NOW THE NASA MEDICOS CAN STUDY THESE BEES TO FIND AN ANTIDOTE FOR THEIR VENOM--
WITH ANY LUCK--AND POSSIBLY SOME HELP FROM MOTHER APHRODITE - THE EFFECTS OF THE VENOM CAN BE REVERSED, AND MY FRIENDS--
GREAT HERA! THE BEES--
--THEY'RE VANISHING!


NOW, AS SHE TRACKS THE ATTACKING SWARM ACROSS THE SHADOWED SPACE COMPLEX, SHE REMEMBERS HER DISMAY AT THE BEES' DISAPPEARANCE THE DAY BEFORE...
AND SILENTLY, SHE SWEARS AN OATH TO HER NAMESAKE, DIANA THE HUNTRESS--
--AND THIS SWARM WILL NOT ESCAPE AS DID THE ONE BEFORE!
--AND TAKE THIS PURSUIT TO THE AIR!
THIS IS THE SIXTH ATTACK OF THIS SWARM SINCE YESTERDAY--AND THE ONLY ATTACK I'VE BEEN ABLE TO FOLLOW THIS FAR!
THE SWARM'S TAKING FLIGHT--AND SINCE I CAN'T GLIDE ON THE AIR CURRENTS FROM A POINT ON THE GROUND, I'LL HAVE TO SUMMON MY INVISIBLE ROBOT PLANE--
NORMALLY, THE BEES DO AS THEY DID IN THE SENSORY DEPRIVATION CHAMBER AFTER ATTACKING AND STINGING OUR SCIENTISTS, THEY VANISH!
BUT TONIGHT, THEY'VE CHANGED THEIR BEHAVIOR PATTERN--
--AND I HAVE A FAIRLY GOOD IDEA WHY!
THERE--IN THE DESERT BELOW, ONLY A HUNDRED MILES NORTH OF HOUSTON--THIS PROVES WHAT I'VE SUSPECTED SINCE THE SECOND ATTACK!
AN ALIEN SPACECRAFT IN THE FORM OF A BEE HIVE--
8


A SHIP THAT COULD BELONG TO ONLY ONE CREATURE - THE QUEEN BEE OF THE PLANET KROLL! *
SO... THE GAMBIT HAS HAD THE EFFECT I'D HOPED FOR!
WHEN I FIRST REALIZED THAT THE JUSTICE LEAGUER WONDER WOMAN WAS CONNECTED WITH THIS SO-CALLED SPACE PROGRAM--
* WW AND THE JLA FIRST FOUGHT THE QUEEN BEE IN JLA #23. --ROSS.
--I WONDERED IF I SHOULD CANCEL MY PLANS, TO AVOID INVOLVING HER-- AND INVITING CAPTURE!
THEN I REALIZED WHAT A PERFECT ADDITION THIS AMAZON WOULD MAKE TO MY "COLLECTION"! THUS, TONIGHT, I LET MY SWARM BE BAIT...
"...AND SO I'VE LED MY WOULD-BE CAPTOR... TO HER DOOM!"
EH? GREAT HERA-- SOME SORT OF TRACTOR BEAM REACHING UP FROM THE HIVE-- PULLING MY ROBOT PLANE TO THE GROUND!
T'S IRRESISTIBLE! I'M BEING DRAWN.. INSIDE!
WITH A GROAN OF TORTURED TURBINE ENGINES, THE INVISIBLE JET IS PLUCKED FROM THE SKY AS EASILY AS A TOY KITE..
SECONDS LATER.
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT-- DEFINITELY AN ALIEN CRAFT! BUT-- WHERE'S QUEEN BEE?
WHERE ELSE, CHARMING ENEMY, BUT HERE, AWAITING YOU IN MY LAIR!
RESIST IF YOU MUST, BUT THE OUTCOME OF OUR CONFLICT IS PREDESTINED! YOUR MIND WILL BE MINE--
--AND YOUR BODY WILL DIE!
THOUSANDS OF BEES, ATTACKING ME IN A FLYING WEDGE!
NO WAY TO AVOID THEM, SO I'LL MEET THEM "HEAD ON"--
9


BZZZZZ
BZZZZZ
--BY PLAYING "BULLETS AND BRACELETS"--
--BUT INSTEAD OF DEFLECTING LEAD SLUGS--
--I'LL DEFLECT STUNNED BEES!
AND THOUGH SHE MOVES WITH THE SPEED OF MERCURY, HER FLASHING WRISTS CUTTING THE AIR IN A BLUR--STILL, SHE FEELS THE APPROACH OF PANIC--
--AND IS ALMOST RELIEVED WHEN THE BATTLE ASSUMES A MORE BRUTAL DIRECTNESS...
QUEEN BEE DOESN'T TRUST HER INSECTS--SO SHE'S TURNING TO HER OWN STINGERS--
--AND WITH ANY GOOD FORTUNE, THAT WILL BE HER FIRST--
--AND LAST--MISTAKE!
EEEEEEEEEE
10

RESTRICTED AREA
KARASHH
I WANT ONLY TWO THINGS FROM YOU, WOMAN... AN ANTIDOTE FOR YOUR BEE VENOM, AND AN EXPLANATION FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
EXPLANATIONS? FOOL, I AM A KROLL OF NOBLE BIRTHING!
I OWE NO MERE COMMON DRONE AN EXPLANATION FOR MY DEEDS--MY WILL IS REASON ENOUGH!
MAYBE THAT'S TRUE ON THE FAR-OFF WORLD WHERE YOU WERE HATCHED--
--BUT ON MY PLANET, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO ONE BETTER.
BOUND BY MY MAGIC LASSO, YOU'RE FORCED TO OBEY ME--AND I COMMAND YOU, EXPLAIN!
THEN LISTEN WELL, AMAZON, FOR HERE IS TRUTH...
I'VE STOLEN THE MINDS OF YOUR STUNG SCIENTISTS AND IMPRISONED THEM IN YONDER HIVE COMPUTER!
THERE THEY SHALL REMAIN TILL TIME'S END, AND NOT EVEN YOUR LASSO CAN COMMAND ME TO FREE THEM!
BEFORE YOU CAME, I PROGRAMMED THE COMPUTER TO SELF-DESTRUCT AT THE SLIGHTEST TAMPERING --EVEN FROM MY HAND!
--IF FIRST, YOU BECOME MY SLAVE!
BUT PERHAPS YOU CAN SAVE THEM--
TO BE CONTINUED
11

NEXT ISSUE IN ADVENTURE, WONDER WOMAN BECOMES --

"THE STAR SLAVE OF THE QUEEN BEE!"

ON SALE APRIL 12TH

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor,

Two issues in the new format, and already the lineup has changed. No objection, just observation. I'm sorry to see *Green Lantern* go (and a mediocre farewell it was, too), but if *Aquaman* is truly here to stay I'll recover. It beats me why he can't hold a title of his own, but that's the way she goes. Now at least he's got a home port.

I expect the rotating slots are filled for the next five years, but I can't go without begging for the return of the forgotten heroes of the JSA. Next to all the mythology, space opera and science fiction, a gas-mask would be a breath of fresh air (pun intended). Be seeing you.

Gregory B. Tiede
628 MacDuff Ave.
Stockton, CA 95210

With the JSA now regularly appearing here, anything's possible; especially since we don't have those rotating slots to fool around with for a while.

*****

Dear Sirs,

I am very pleased with the format of the new *Adventure Comics*. However, what at first seemed to be very promising has left me disappointed, mainly in your choice of features.

Why drop *Green Lantern*? He no longer appears in solo tales and a recent poll in *JUSTICE LEAGUE* proved him to be the most popular member. I myself prefer him over *Flash*. I'll admit I found Staton's art too cartoonish for the character; and Burkett's scripts childish and outdated, but he could be replaced.

This may surprise you, but one feature I feel should be dropped is *Wonder Woman*. Her magazine, until recently, has always been a consistently poor seller. I remember hearing that it was almost cancelled several times. The recent upswing of sales on her mag has only been due to the TV program. I don't feel her appearance will boost sales of your dollar comic. As for the creative team, Harris's scripts seem to plow on forever while Abel has always been my least favorite artist.

Steve Bernard
343 N. Hanover St.
Carlise, PA 17013

At present Wonder Woman outsells GL by a wide margin, so we can't go by past performance. Besides, we also get letters like this:

Dear Adventure,

Although *Adventure* #460 was good all-around, I prefer to comment only on the *Wonder Woman* tale, which was the highlight of the entire comic.

Now for the story. If there is ever a lesson to be learned from "The Quest for the Stolen Soul", then it's got to be "Don't depend on Aphrodite for your happiness". We now see what contempt she has for mortals. Her pretentiously divine words on the fates of mortals are extremely contemptible.

I'll go on the record as saying that *Wonder Woman* should look to herself more for guidance and wisdom. I don't want to see any more favors from the goddesses, like raising lovers from the dead.

Mike Burkhalter
Box 8938
Honolulu, Hawaii 98615

Everyone seems to have their favorite ADVENTURE star. For those of you who prefer Deadman, note that next issue he'll solo in a 25 page tale originally scheduled for SHOWCASE, by Len Wein, Gerry Conway and Jim Aparo. Be here.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Arthur Gulowitz, Business Manager
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WHY MUST MERA CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM?
HOW LONG CAN WONDER WOMAN HOLD OUT AGAINST THE DEADLY SWARMS OF KILLER BEES?
THE URTUMI CREATURE FEEDS ON FLASH'S BODY ENERGY. IF HE DOESN'T DESTROY IT-- HE DIES!